

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2022 with funding from
University of Toronto

<https://archive.org/details/31761115477176>

CA20N

NR

-574

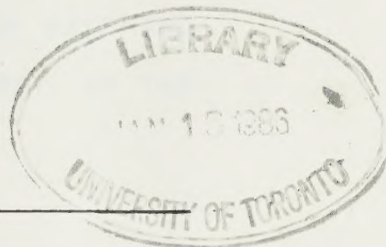
Government
Publications

212

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE
BY THE

HONOURABLE ALAN W. POPE
ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1984
2:00 P.M.



MODERNIZATION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

MR. SPEAKER, AS A RESULT OF A SUPREME COURT OF ONTARIO JUDGMENT ON OCTOBER 15, INDIVIDUAL QUOTAS ASSIGNED TO COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN HAVE BEEN RULED TO BE TECHNICALLY INVALID AT THE PRESENT TIME.

THE JUDGMENT WAS BASED ON THE ISSUES OF DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL TO THE PROVINCIAL MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

IN THE DECISION, IT WAS HELD BY MR. JUSTICE SMITH THAT THE AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO IMPOSE INDIVIDUAL QUOTAS IS NOT LEGALLY DELEGATED IN THE FEDERAL FISHERIES ACT OR THE ONTARIO FISHERIES REGULATIONS MADE THEREUNDER.

I AM DISAPPOINTED THAT THE QUOTA ALLOCATIONS HAVE BEEN HELD BY HIS LORDSHIP TO BE INVALID. BUT I AM ALSO ENCOURAGED THAT THE JUDGE FOUND WE HAD BEEN FAIR AND JUST IN BOTH OUR APPLICATION, AND IN THE INTENT, OF THE QUOTA SYSTEM.

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT ALL OF THE OTHER ONTARIO FISHERY REGULATIONS INVOLVING BOTH SPORT AND COMMERCIAL FISHING REMAIN VALID.

THE MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW THAT THE PROVINCE IS CURRENTLY SEEKING BOTH A STAY OF THIS JUDGMENT AND LEAVE TO APPEAL THE JUDGMENT TO A HIGHER COURT. THE MATTER OF STAYING THE JUDGMENT WILL BE HEARD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19.

IN THE INTERIM, WE ARE REVIEWING THE OTHER LEGISLATION AND WE WILL ADVISE THE COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY OF OUR SUBSEQUENT APPROACH TO ENFORCING HARVEST CONTROLS.

WE ARE ENCOURAGING COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN TO CONTINUE TO RESPECT THE INTENT OF INDIVIDUAL QUOTAS IN THEIR FISHING PRACTICES IN RECOGNITION OF THE BEST INTERESTS OF CONSERVATION OF THE RESOURCE, OTHER RESOURCE USERS, AND THE INDUSTRY ITSELF.

I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR FISHERY RESOURCE TO THE PROVINCE.

ACROSS ONTARIO -- FROM LAKE ST. CLAIR TO LAKE NIPIGON -- THERE ARE CLOSE TO 1,000 COMMERCIAL FISH LICENCEES, WHO DIRECTLY EMPLOY OVER 2,000 PERSONS ANNUALLY. THESE FISHERMEN LAND APPROXIMATELY 60-MILLION POUNDS OF FISH A YEAR WITH A LANDED VALUE OF NEARLY \$30-MILLION.

THE CONCERNS FACING THE COMMERCIAL FISHERY ACROSS THE PROVINCE ARE REMARKABLY SIMILAR. WITHOUT EXCEPTION THERE IS COMPETITION FOR THE FISHERIES RESOURCE WITHIN THE INDUSTRY AND AMONG THE VARIOUS USER GROUPS. THE COMPETITION BETWEEN ANGLERS AND COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN FOR YELLOW PICKEREL, AS AN EXAMPLE, IS AS INTENSE ON THE LAKE OF THE WOODS AS IT IS ON GEORGIAN BAY OR LAKE ERIE.

EACH USER GROUP IS CALLING FOR SENSIBLE CONTROL OF FISH HARVESTS. TOURIST LODGE OPERATORS, CHARTER BOAT OPERATORS, AND RECREATIONAL ANGLERS -- WHO ALONE CONTRIBUTE OVER HALF A BILLION DOLLARS TO THE PROVINCIAL ECONOMY ANNUALLY -- ARE DEMANDING MEASURES THAT WILL ENSURE A STABLE FISHERIES RESOURCE. I THINK IT'S OBVIOUS THAT A STABLE RESOURCE IS NEEDED TO MAKE LONG TERM BUSINESS DECISIONS AND PLAN FOR RECREATIONAL PURSUITS.

IT IS CONCERN FOR EACH OF THESE GROUPS -- AS WELL AS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE -- THAT PROMPTED THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT TO BRING CHANGES TO THE MANAGEMENT OF COMMERCIAL FISHING. OUR GOAL IS TO MAKE SURE THAT FISH STOCKS ARE PROTECTED FROM COLLAPSE, AND THAT THE COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY IS PROTECTED FROM THE INSTABILITY IT HAS EXPERIENCED FOR THE PAST 40 YEARS.

TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN FOR SEVERAL YEARS. WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR WAYS TO PROTECT FISH STOCKS, STREAMLINE COMMERCIAL FISHING ADMINISTRATION, AND AT THE SAME TIME ALLOW GOOD OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRODUCTIVE BUSINESS ENTERPRISE.

I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THE DEGREE OF CONSULTATION CARRIED ON BETWEEN MY MINISTRY STAFF AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY CONCERNING THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM.

FROM AS EARLY AS THE LATE 1970s -- AND MORE INTENSIVELY FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE 1980s -- THERE HAVE BEEN EXTENSIVE COMMUNICATIONS. THIS HAS INCLUDED LETTERS TO THE INDUSTRY; REPORTS CIRCULATED AND COMMENTS REQUESTED; MEETINGS HELD BY LOCAL MINISTRY STAFF WITH LOCAL FISHERMEN AND FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS; JOINT INDUSTRY-MINISTRY COMMITTEES; MEETINGS BETWEEN THE MINISTRY AND THE ONTARIO COUNCIL OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES; AND MEETINGS BETWEEN THE SUCCESSIVE MINISTERS OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND INDIVIDUALS, ASSOCIATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INDUSTRY.

THE RESULT IS A PROGRAM FOR MODERNIZATION OF COMMERCIAL FISHING IN ONTARIO THAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE TREATMENT OF MANY OF THE PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED BY THE INDUSTRY.

THE PRIMARY GOAL OF THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM MUST BE CONSERVATION OF FISH SPECIES. THIS, OF COURSE, IS THE ESSENTIAL FIRST STEP IN GUARANTEEING A HEALTHY AND ECONOMICALLY VIABLE COMMERCIAL FISHERY.

A PROGRAM OF THIS MAGNITUDE NECESSARILY INVOLVES CHANGES. THE BIGGEST CHANGE TO RESULT FROM THE MODERNIZATION IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUOTA SYSTEM, PROVIDING EACH FISHERMAN WITH A SHARE OF THE AVAILABLE CATCH.

UNTIL NOW, AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, ONTARIO HAS RELIED ON MORE INDIRECT METHODS TO MANAGE THE FISH HARVEST. THIS INCLUDED CLOSED FISHING SEASONS, CLOSED FISHING AREAS, SIZE LIMITS ON CATCH, AND RESTRICTIONS ON THE TYPE OF GEAR USED.

UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM, COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN WOULD BE ASSIGNED INDIVIDUAL SPECIES QUOTAS REPRESENTING EACH FISHERMEN'S SHARE OF THE TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH ALLOTTED TO THE INDUSTRY.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE PROPOSED QUOTA SYSTEM WOULD DO AWAY WITH MANY OF THE "EFFICIENCY REDUCTION" REGULATIONS, AND CONCENTRATE INSTEAD ON MAINTAINING A TOTAL CATCH GEARED TO FISH STOCK PREDICTIONS.

WE TRUST THIS MATTER WILL SOON BE RESOLVED TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL CONCERNED.

Minister's Discussions and Meetings on Modernization of Commercial Fisheries with Fishermen and Interest Groups

3 March 1982	Minister, Mr. Gord Miller (MPP), Mr. F. Bravener, Mr. G. Gibbons, Mr. Don McDonald and Mr. G. Sheppard re: fishermen in Port Dover
30 March 1982	Minister and Mr. Mac McKenzie (Ont. Council of Commercial Fisheries)
22 April 1982	Minister and Mr. J. Omstead re: fishing in Lake Erie
17 January 1983	Minister - attended the Ontario Council of Commercial Fisheries Annual Meeting (London)
4 May 1983	Minister, Mr. Remo Mancini (MPP) and six fishermen and fish processors
24 May 1983	Minister, Mr. B. Bradley (MP) and three fishermen from Port Dover re: Lake Erie Fishing
28 June 1983	Minister and Clarence Abbott at Long Point Bay and Simcoe
9 August 1983	Minister and Mr. Laverne Kelly re: Lake Erie Fish Packers & Processors inspection enforcement program
6 September 1983	Minister and Margaret Birch at Pelee Island
11 October 1983	Minister and members of Ontario Council of Commercial Fisheries re: quotas
31 October 1983	Minister, Mr. Jack Riddell (MPP/Huron Middlesex), Mr. McGraw and two fishermen re: Modernization of commercial fishing
21 November 1983	Minister, Mr. Laverne Kelly and fishermen
21 November 1983	Minister, Mr. B. Bradley (MP) and Mr. E. Siddall
16 January 1984	Ontario Council of Commercial Fisheries - London Annual Meeting
29 February 1984	Minister and Mr. J. Waugh (Update re: quotas)
9 May 1984	Minister, Mr. E. Sargent (MPP), Indian Chiefs and Mr. P. Williams (Lawyer)
24 May 1984	Minister and Mr. Baski (Lawyer) re: Lake Erie quotas

11 June 1984 *Minister and Mr. J. Waugh (Ontario Council of
Commercial Fisheries)*

27 August 1984 *Minister, Mr. Bud Bradley (MP), Mr. D. Misner, Mr. Elliott
and Mr. A. Bravener (Port Credit)*

Phone Calls:

31 March 1982 *Jim Omstead, Whitley
re: smelt Lake Erie*

8 April 1982 *Jim Ormstead
re: fishing Lake Erie*

28 April 1982 *Jim Omstead
(twice) re: fishing Lake Erie*

5 July 1984 *Mr. Baski*

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE

BY THE

HONOURABLE MICHAEL HARRIS
ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1985
2 P.M.



GREAT LAKES CHARTER AGREEMENT

MR. SPEAKER, IT WILL COME AS NO SURPRISE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE THAT THE GREAT LAKES ARE ONE OF ONTARIO'S MOST VALUABLE NATURAL RESOURCES, VITAL TO THE WELL-BEING OF THIS PROVINCE.

BECAUSE OF THIS, ONTARIO JOINED TOGETHER WITH QUEBEC AND THE EIGHT GREAT LAKES STATES YESTERDAY IN SIGNING A CHARTER OF PRINCIPLES AIMED AT PROTECTING THE GREAT LAKES FROM THE THREAT OF LARGE-SCALE WATER DIVERSIONS AND GENERAL OVERUSE.

THE GREAT LAKES CHARTER WAS SIGNED ON FEBRUARY 9 OF THIS YEAR BY QUEBEC AND THE EIGHT STATES. WHILE PREMIER MILLER WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY AT THAT TIME, IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN CLEAR THAT THIS GOVERNMENT FULLY SUPPORTS THE CHARTER AND ITS AIMS.

THE CHARTER IS A RESULT OF A TASK FORCE FORMED IN 1983 WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE TWO PROVINCES AND EIGHT STATES. THE PURPOSE OF THE TASK FORCE WAS TO EVALUATE THE ABILITY OF CURRENT INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS TO RESIST GREAT LAKES WATER DIVERSIONS, AND TO RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE MEANS TO PROTECT AND CONSERVE THE WATER RESOURCE.

MR. SPEAKER, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS CHARTER TO ONTARIO. MANAGING AND CONSERVING WATER IN THE GREAT LAKES BASIN WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT OVER THE NEXT TWO DECADES.

THE PREDICTED HIGHER CONSUMPTION BY THE TRADITIONAL USER GROUPS -- ALONG WITH THE INCREASINGLY CRITICAL WATER SUPPLY PROBLEMS IN CERTAIN SOUTHERN AND WESTERN STATES -- POSES A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE ECOLOGICAL BALANCE WITHIN THE BASIN.

ANY SIGNIFICANT DIVERSION OR INCREASE IN CONSUMPTION FROM THE GREAT LAKES BASIN WOULD HAVE A SERIOUS ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ON ONTARIO. A DROP OF EVEN ONE INCH IN THE WATER LEVEL OF THE LAKES WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE THE GENERATING CAPACITY OF HYDROELECTRIC PLANTS, AND WOULD COST THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN LOST REVENUE.

AS WELL, IT WOULD VERY SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE TOURISM INDUSTRY, RECREATIONAL BOATING, COMMERCIAL AND SPORT FISHING AND WETLAND AREAS. AND OF COURSE, WATER LEVEL FLUCTUATIONS HAVE AN IMPACT ON WATER FOR INDUSTRIAL AND DOMESTIC USE.

THE CHARTER ADDRESSES THESE PROBLEMS BY PROVIDING A REGIONAL MECHANISM TO PREVENT DIVERSIONS OUT OF THE GREAT LAKES BASIN. IT ALSO ALLOWS ALL PARTICIPANTS TO DEVELOP REGIONAL PLANNING STRATEGIES ON A STATE/PROVINCIAL LEVEL TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION AND PROTECT THE GREAT LAKES ECOSYSTEM.

IT IS TRUE, MR. SPEAKER, THAT ONTARIO ALREADY HAS THE AUTHORITY TO PREVENT DIVERSIONS AND TO MONITOR WATER WITHDRAWALS UNDER THE LAKES AND RIVERS IMPROVEMENT ACT AND THE ONTARIO WATER RESOURCES ACT. HOWEVER, THIS AUTHORITY ONLY COVERS SUCH ACTIONS WITHIN THIS PROVINCE.

THE CHARTER WILL GIVE US, FOR THE FIRST TIME, ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON HOW WATER IS USED BY THE GREAT LAKES STATES. IT WILL PROVIDE US WITH AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR POSSIBLE ACTIONS INJURIOUS TO ONTARIO, SUCH AS INCREASING CONSUMPTIVE USES AND PROPOSED DIVERSIONS.

OUR FUTURES IN WATER CONFERENCE, HELD IN TORONTO LAST JUNE, FOCUSED PUBLIC ATTENTION ON THE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS OF THE GROWING DEMAND FOR GREAT LAKES WATER. THE CHARTER ACTS UPON THOSE CONCERNS BY GUARANTEEING FORMAL, BASIN-WIDE CO-OPERATION.

MR. SPEAKER, THIS GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY DEMONSTRATED A FIRM COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING ONTARIO'S GREAT LAKES WATER RESOURCE. THE SIGNING OF THE GREAT LAKES CHARTER WILL GIVE US A FURTHER TOOL TO MEET THAT COMMITMENT.

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE

BY THE

HONOURABLE VINCENT G. KERRIO
MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 1985
2 P.M.



DROWNINGS AT BALSAM CHUTES

MR. SPEAKER, I WISH TO OFFER MY PROFOUND REGRET AT THE TRAGIC LOSS OF THREE LIVES ON TUESDAY OF THIS WEEK AT BALSAM CHUTES ON THE MUSKOKA RIVER, AND TO EXTEND MY PERSONAL CONDOLENCES TO THE RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THE VICTIMS.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CLARIFY SOME CONFUSION THAT HAS ARISEN AS A RESULT OF THIS TRAGEDY.

MEMBERS MAY HAVE HEARD IN THE MEDIA THAT A LOG BOOM NORMALLY LOCATED JUST ABOVE BALSAM CHUTES, AND MAINTAINED BY THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, WAS NOT IN PLACE AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT, AND THAT THIS BOOM MIGHT HAVE PREVENTED THE TRAGEDY.

WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT THIS BOOM WAS NOT IN PLACE AT THE TIME OF THIS ACCIDENT, I SHOULD CLARIFY THAT SUCH LOG BOOMS ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE SAFETY DEVICES FOR BOATERS. IN THIS CASE THE BOOM PREVENTS DEBRIS FROM GOING DOWN THE CHUTES AND CREATING HAZARDS FOR SWIMMERS BELOW THE WATERFALL. IN MOST OTHER CASES THESE LOG BOOMS -- CALLED "TRASH GUARDS" BY ENGINEERS -- ARE DESIGNED TO PROTECT DAM STRUCTURES FROM DEBRIS.

HISTORICALLY, THIS PARTICULAR BOOM IS CARRIED AWAY OR DAMAGED EVERY YEAR BY DEBRIS, HIGH WATER AND ICE. THIS YEAR, IT WAS INSPECTED ON JUNE 28 AND, LARGELY BECAUSE OF RECORD HIGH WATER LEVELS IN THE AREA, IT WAS NOT REPAIRED IMMEDIATELY. IT WILL BE REPLACED AS SOON AS HIGH WATER CONDITIONS ALLOW MINISTRY STAFF TO DO THIS SAFELY.

I SHOULD ADD, MR. SPEAKER, THAT THERE ARE TWO SIGNS ALONG THE RIVER ABOUT 100 YARDS ABOVE THE CHUTES WARNING BOATERS OF THE DANGER AND FAST WATER AHEAD. I UNDERSTAND AT LEAST ONE OF THESE SIGNS IS CLEARLY LEGIBLE FROM THE RIVER. THE SOUND OF THE FALLS IS QUITE LOUD AT THIS POINT.

THERE HAS ALSO BEEN CONCERN EXPRESSED ABOUT THE FACT THAT THE MUSKOKA RIVER WAS FLOWING OUT OF THE MARY LAKE DAM AT MORE THAN FOUR TIMES ITS NORMAL RATE AT THE TIME OF THIS UNFORTUNATE TRAGEDY.

THE RIVER WAS ABOUT TWO FEET HIGHER THAN NORMAL AT THE TIME OF THIS ACCIDENT FOLLOWING MORE THAN FIVE INCHES OF HEAVY, LOCALIZED RAINFALL OVER THE WEEKEND.

MEMBERS FAMILIAR WITH THIS SYSTEM OF DAMS ALONG THE BIG EAST AND MUSKOKA RIVERS BETWEEN ALGONQUIN PARK AND BRACEBRIDGE, KNOW THAT ITS MAIN PURPOSE IS TO KEEP LAKE LEVELS AS CLOSE TO A PRE-SET LEVEL AS POSSIBLE FOR RECREATIONAL USES. UNDER SUCH ABNORMAL RAINFALL CONDITIONS, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ENSURE A CONSTANT LEVEL OF WATER FLOW.

IT IS INDEED UNFORTUNATE THAT THIS TRAGEDY HAS OCCURRED. I HAVE INSTRUCTED MY STAFF TODAY TO MAKE SURE THE SIGNS IN PLACE AT THIS LOCATION, AND OTHERS ALONG THE RIVER, CAN EASILY BE SEEN BY BOATERS TO PREVENT ANOTHER TRAGEDY OF THIS TYPE.

I WOULD ONLY URGE THAT BOATERS MUST ALWAYS BE CONSCIOUS OF ANY HAZARDS -- ESPECIALLY IN UNFAMILIAR WATERS, AND ESPECIALLY AT A TIME WHEN WATER LEVELS IN SOME AREAS OF ONTARIO ARE AT RECORD HIGH LEVELS.

THANK YOU MR. SPEAKER.

CABIN
NR
-574

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE

BY THE

HONOURABLE VINCENT G. KERRIO
ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NOVEMBER 1, 1985
10 A.M.

PROVINCIAL AUDITOR'S REPORT



MR. SPEAKER, AS I ANNOUNCED ON OCTOBER 18, THE GOVERNMENT IS UNDERTAKING A COMPREHENSIVE AUDIT OF ITS FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES, THE RESULTS OF WHICH WILL BE SHARED FULLY WITH THE PEOPLE OF ONTARIO.

IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT ONTARIANS CAN ONLY REACH A REASONABLE CONSENSUS ABOUT HOW OUR FOREST RESOURCES ARE BEING MANAGED IF THEY HAVE ACCURATE, UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

WE BELIEVE THE PUBLIC SHOULD KNOW AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THE STATE OF OUR FORESTS AND THE OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE.

CONSEQUENTLY, WE ARE TAKING A NUMBER OF STEPS THAT SHOULD PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR REACHING SUCH A CONSENSUS.

MR. SPEAKER, TODAY I WOULD LIKE TO TABLE THE PROVINCIAL AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY OF THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES THAT WAS COMPLETED THIS YEAR -- TOGETHER WITH MY MINISTRY'S RESPONSE TO ITEMS RAISED IN THE AUDIT REPORT.

AS MEMBERS KNOW, PROVINCIAL AUDITS OF MAJOR GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS ARE UNDERTAKEN REGULARLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGERS.

THIS REPORT WAS INITIALLY SENT TO THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR RESPONSE BACK TO THE PROVINCIAL AUDITOR AND FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION. IT WOULD NOT ITSELF NORMALLY HAVE BECOME A PUBLIC DOCUMENT UNLESS THE PROVINCIAL AUDITOR CHOSE TO INCLUDE ALL OR SOME OF THE MATERIAL IN HIS ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE.

THIS REPORT COMES AT A MOST OPPORTUNE TIME IN THE SHORT HISTORY OF ONTARIO'S INTENSIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES. IN TERMS OF SUCH THINGS AS GROWING TECHNIQUES, SILVICULTURE, QUALITY OF SEED, AND OTHER FACTORS, FOREST MANAGEMENT IS AT A STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT THAT IS -- IN TERMS OF PRACTICE IN NORTHERN ONTARIO -- BARELY 25 YEARS OLD.

MY MINISTRY'S RESPONSE TO THE AUDITOR DESCRIBES MANY STEPS BEING TAKEN TO CORRECT INADEQUACIES WE OURSELVES HAVE IDENTIFIED IN THE PROCESS. THE AUDITOR'S REPORT IDENTIFIES A NUMBER OF OTHER AREAS WHERE OUR PROCEDURES CAN AND WILL BE IMPROVED.

WE WANT THIS INFORMATION TO BE MADE PUBLIC. WE BELIEVE THE RESULTS OF THIS AUDIT WILL ADD SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE DEBATE ON HOW WE MANAGE FORESTS IN THIS PROVINCE, AND WILL PROVIDE A VALUABLE TOOL IN THE FURTHER REFINEMENT OF OUR FOREST MANAGMENT PROGRAMS, I AM TABLING THIS REPORT FOR THE PUBLIC'S INFORMATION.

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER.

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE

BY THE

HONOURABLE VINCENT G. KERRIO
ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NOVEMBER 5, 1985
2 P.M.

TREE PLANTING CONTRACTS

MR. SPEAKER, I WOULD LIKE TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS
RAISED BY THE MEMBER FOR FORT WILLIAM AND THE
MEMBER FOR SAULT STE. MARIE ON OCTOBER 24
REGARDING MY MINISTRY'S TREE-PLANTING CONTRACTS
AND UNPAID WAGES ASSOCIATED WITH THESE CONTRACTS.

BECAUSE THE ISSUE FALLS WITHIN THE MANDATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR, I HAVE HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH MY
COLLEAGUE, THE MINISTER OF LABOUR.

AS THE MEMBERS KNOW, THERE IS ALREADY IN PLACE A
PROCESS WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR THAT
PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO EMPLOYEES IN COLLECTING
WAGES DUE TO THEM.

IN 1985, THERE WERE ABOUT 90 PRIVATE PLANTING CONTRACTORS DOING BUSINESS IN ONTARIO. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, ONLY SIX SPECIFIC CONTRACTORS -- A VERY SMALL PERCENTAGE -- HAVE HAD COMPLAINTS LODGED AGAINST THEM.

THE EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS BRANCH OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR HAS LOOKED INTO ALL COMPLAINTS AND HAS HAD A GOOD DEGREE OF SUCCESS IN OBTAINING WAGE ARREARS UPON COMPLETION OF THEIR INVESTIGATIONS.

IN SEPTEMBER, OVER \$14,000 WAS COLLECTED BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR FOR 11 TREE-PLANTING EMPLOYEES OF ONE COMPANY AND IN OCTOBER ORDERS WERE ISSUED TO TWO OTHER COMPANIES TO PAY MORE THAN \$3,000 OWED TO EMPLOYEES.

WHILE THE PERCENTAGE OF CONTRACTORS AGAINST WHOM COMPLAINTS WERE LODGED IS SMALL, THE GOVERNMENT IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROBLEM. I ASK THE MEMBERS TO RECOGNIZE THAT CONTRACT TREE-PLANTING IS A RELATIVELY NEW INDUSTRY. THERE ARE STILL SOME WRINKLES TO IRON OUT.

UNDER THE CONSTRUCTION LIEN ACT, THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES CURRENTLY WITHHOLDS 10 PER CENT OF THE TENDERED PRICE OF A CONTRACT FOR 45 DAYS, FOR CASES SUCH AS THE ONES REFERRED TO BY THE TWO HONOURABLE MEMBERS.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS AMOUNT DOES NOT COVER THE TOTAL WAGE COMPONENT OF A TREE-PLANTING CONTRACT.

WE WANT A SYSTEM THAT GOES FURTHER.

I WOULD LIKE TO OUTLINE WHAT MY MINISTRY WILL BE DOING TO AVOID A REPEAT OF WHAT HAPPENED THIS YEAR.

I HAVE ORDERED MINISTRY MANAGERS TO ENSURE THAT ALL TENDER PACKAGES FOR THE 1986 PLANTING SEASON CONTAIN CERTAIN CONDITIONS. ONE CONDITION WILL BE THAT, PRIOR TO FINAL AWARDING OF CONTRACTS, EACH SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR MUST AGREE TO PROVIDE ALL EMPLOYEES WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOTH THE CONTRACTOR AND THE EMPLOYEES. THIS IS IN ADDITION TO INFORMATION OUTLINING HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS.

IN ADDITION, NO CONTRACT WILL BE AWARDED UNLESS CONTRACTORS ATTEND ONE OF A SERIES OF REGIONAL WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD OVER THIS WINTER.

THESE WORKSHOPS WILL ENSURE THAT CONTRACTORS ARE FULLY AWARE OF PERTINENT LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS, AS WELL AS THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONTRACTORS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES IN THE AREAS OF HEALTH AND LABOR STANDARDS.

THE MINISTRY IS ALSO TAKING STEPS TO ENSURE IT ENGAGES CONTRACTORS WHO HAVE HIGH STANDARDS AND GOOD PERFORMANCE RECORDS. WE ARE WORKING ON WAYS OF IMPROVING STANDARDIZATION AND EFFICIENCY OF TREE-PLANTING ACROSS THE PROVINCE.

WE ARE ALSO LOOKING INTO POSSIBLE INITIATIVES SUCH AS PRE-BONDING OF CONTRACTORS. WHILE THIS IS A POSSIBILITY, IT ALSO POSES CERTAIN PROBLEMS WE HAVE TO CONSIDER. MANY CONTRACTORS WHO ARE STARTING OUT DO NOT HAVE THE FUNDS TO BECOME BONDED, BUT HAVE EXCELLENT RECORDS AS TREE-PLANTERS, BUSINESSMEN AND EMPLOYERS.

WE WANT TO AVOID UNFAIRLY RULING OUT PEOPLE SUCH AS THESE WHO ARE TRYING TO ESTABLISH THEMSELVES, BUT DO NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES YET TO BECOME BONDED.

THAT IS WHY WE ARE ALSO CONSIDERING ESTABLISHING PRE-QUALIFICATION AND DISQUALIFICATION CRITERIA WHICH COULD BE INTRODUCED BEFORE THE 1987 PLANTING SEASON.

THESE CRITERIA WOULD ALLOW MNR TO JUDGE POTENTIAL CONTRACTORS AND DISQUALIFY UNSATISFACTORY CONTRACTORS WHO HAVE DONE WORK FOR US IN THE PAST.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF WAYS OF ENSURING WE ATTRACT GOOD CONTRACTORS, AND THAT THE PEOPLE WHOM THEY EMPLOY ARE TREATED FAIRLY AND WORK UNDER PROPER HEALTH AND SAFETY CONDITIONS.

THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM THAT WILL ACHIEVE ALL THESE OBJECTIVES AND PUT THIS NEW GROWTH INDUSTRY FIRMLY ON ITS FEET.

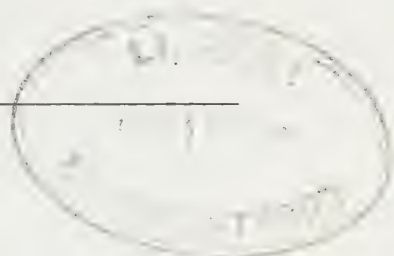
THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER.

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE

BY THE

HONOURABLE VINCENT G. KERRIO
ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NOVEMBER 22, 1985
10 A.M.



TREE PLANTING CONTRACTS

MR. SPEAKER, I WOULD LIKE TO UPDATE THE HOUSE ON THE STATUS OF ACTIONS I HAVE TAKEN THROUGH MY MINISTRY AND BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR REGARDING UNPAID WAGES ASSOCIATED WITH MNR TREE-PLANTING CONTRACTS.

I AM PLEASED TO ADVISE THE HOUSE TODAY THAT I AM TAKING ACTION TO ENSURE THAT WORKERS RECEIVE THE PAY THAT IS OWING TO THEM IN A TIMELY FASHION.

I WANT TO MAKE IT VERY CLEAR THAT I AM TAKING THIS ACTION FOR THIS YEAR ONLY, AND THAT IT WILL COMPLEMENT OTHER STEPS WE ARE TAKING TO IMPROVE THIS CONTRACTING PROCESS.

I BELIEVE THERE ARE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND SPECIAL CASES RIGHT NOW INVOLVING GROUPS THAT ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE, SUCH AS STUDENTS AND NATIVE PEOPLE.

OF THE CASES WE KNOW ABOUT WHERE A TREE PLANTING CONTRACT EMPLOYEE HAS NOT BEEN PAID, AND WHERE THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR HAS INVESTIGATED AND HAS PLACED AN ORDER TO PAY UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ACT, WE WILL ENSURE THAT FUNDS ARE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE TO PAY THE EMPLOYEES PROMPTLY.

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR CAN MAKE PROMPT PAYMENT THROUGH ITS EXISTING PROCESSES. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, MY MINISTRY WILL PAY THE EMPLOYEES DIRECTLY. IN SUCH CASES, MR. SPEAKER, I WANT TO ASSURE THE HOUSE THAT THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE CONTRACTORS TO ENSURE THAT THEY MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS FULLY.

MY STRONG COMMITMENT IS TO GET THE DISPUTED FUNDS INTO THE HANDS OF THE UNPAID TREE PLANTERS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, WHILE THE GOVERNMENT DEALS WITH THE CONTRACTORS FOR PAYMENT.

AS THE MEMBERS MAY KNOW, MR. SPEAKER, THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES USES THE CONSTRUCTION LIEN ACT TO HELP IN CASES SUCH AS THESE. UNDER THAT ACT, THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES HAS BEEN WITHHOLDING 10 PER CENT OF THE TENDERED PRICE OF A CONTRACT FOR 45 DAYS.

IN ADDITION, THERE IS A PROCESS IN PLACE WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR THAT PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO EMPLOYEES IN COLLECTING WAGES DUE TO THEM.

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR CAN PUT AN ORDER AGAINST A COMPANY ON BEHALF OF EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE NOT BEEN PAID.

WE SHALL ENSURE THAT EMPLOYEES ARE AWARE OF THIS EXISTING PROCESS -- AS WELL AS ACTION THAT MAY BE TAKEN UNDER THE CONSTRUCTION LIEN ACT OR THROUGH SMALL CLAIMS COURT.

I WOULD ALSO EMPHASIZE THAT THE SPECIAL PROVISIONS I AM ANNOUNCING TODAY WILL ONLY APPLY TO SITUATIONS WHERE THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR'S PROCESSES HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED, AND WHERE THE VALIDITY OF THE CLAIM HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

AS MEMBERS WILL RECALL, I HAVE PREVIOUSLY OUTLINED A NUMBER OF STEPS THAT WE ARE TAKING TO IMPROVE MNR'S TREE CONTRACTING SYSTEM.

WE WILL ENSURE THAT CONTRACTORS FOR THE 1986 PLANTING SEASON PROVIDE ALL EMPLOYEES WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOTH THE CONTRACTOR AND THE EMPLOYEES.

WE WILL REQUIRE THAT ALL CONTRACTORS ATTEND ONE OF A SERIES OF REGIONAL SEMINARS THIS WINTER TO MAKE THEM FULLY AWARE OF PERTINENT LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS.

WE WILL ENSURE THAT ALL SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTORS HAVE HIGH STANDARDS AND GOOD PERFORMANCE RECORDS. WE ARE ALSO LOOKING AT THE POSSIBILITY OF BONDING CONTRACTORS OR ESTABLISHING PRE-QUALIFICATION AND DISQUALIFICATION CRITERIA WHICH COULD BE INTRODUCED BEFORE THE 1987 PLANTING SEASON.

AS YOU CAN SEE, MR. SPEAKER, MY MINISTRY WILL CLOSELY MONITOR MNR TREE PLANTING CONTRACTORS. I WISH TO ASSURE THE HOUSE THAT WE WILL TAKE EVERY EFFORT TO AVOID A REPETITION OF THIS UNFORTUNATE, AND INEXCUSABLE, SITUATION.

I WOULD ALSO URGE ANY OTHER INDIVIDUALS, OR ANY OF MY COLLEAGUES ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS LEGISLATURE WHO KNOW OF ANY EMPLOYEES HIRED TO PLANT TREES WHO FEEL THEY HAVE BEEN SIMILARLY WRONGED, TO GET IN TOUCH IMMEDIATELY WITH MINISTRY OF LABOUR'S EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS BRANCH OR WITH MY MINISTRY.

THANK YOU MR. SPEAKER.

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE
BY THE
HONOURABLE VINCENT KERRIO
MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DECEMBER 10, 1985
2 P.M.



FMA REVIEWS

MR. SPEAKER, AS I ANNOUNCED IN THIS LEGISLATURE ON OCTOBER 18, THE GOVERNMENT IS UNDERTAKING A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES TO BRING THE PUBLIC UP-TO-DATE ON THE HEALTH OF ONTARIO'S FOREST ESTATE.

ONE OF THOSE INITIATIVES IS THE TABLING OF THE FIRST FIVE-YEAR REVIEWS OF FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS SIGNED IN 1980.

THE COMPANIES INVOLVED ARE ABITIBI-PRICE INC., GREAT LAKES FOREST PRODUCTS LTD., SPRUCE FALLS POWER AND PAPER CO. LTD., EACH HOLDING ONE FMA, AND E.B. EDDY FOREST PRODUCTS LTD. WHICH SIGNED TWO FMAS IN 1980. ANOTHER 21 AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN SIGNED SINCE THEN. THEY, TOO, WILL BE REVIEWED EVERY FIVE YEARS.

THIS GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS, OR FMAs, ARE THE RIGHT APPROACH TO TIMBER AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ON PUBLICLY OWNED LANDS. THEY REQUIRE THAT A COMPANY THAT CUTS TREES ON A SPECIFIC TRACT OF LAND ALSO TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR TIMBER MANAGEMENT ON THAT SAME PIECE OF LAND. TIMBER MANAGEMENT INCLUDES PREPARATION OF PLANS, REGENERATION, TENDING, SITE PREPARATION AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION.

THIS MAKES FOR MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. COMPANIES THAT KNOW THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE SAME SITE WILL ALTER THE WAY THEY HARVEST AND CLEAN UP AN AREA. THEY CAN TAKE CARE TO PREPARE THE SITE WHILE THEY HARVEST.

THE RESULTS OF THESE FIRST REVIEWS OF FMAs BEAR OUT THE MINISTRY'S WISDOM OF REPLACING THE OLD-STYLE TIMBER LICENCES WITH FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS.

WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE FIGURES, MR. SPEAKER, YOU WILL SEE THAT FULLY 63 PER CENT OF ALL HARVESTED LANDS WERE REGENERATED BY THE FOREST COMPANIES COMPARED WITH 51 PER CENT REGENERATED BY THE MINISTRY BEFORE THE INCEPTION OF FMAs.

THE 63 PER CENT THAT HAS BEEN REGENERATED IS FAR FROM THE END OF THE STORY. THE 63 PER CENT REPRESENTS WHAT HAS BEEN TREATED. AS THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS REALIZE, VIRTUALLY ALL OTHER AREAS WILL REGENERATE NATURALLY. THESE AREAS WILL NOT ENTER AN INVENTORY SYSTEM UNTIL THEY ARE SURVEYED.

I SHOULD POINT OUT, MR. SPEAKER, THAT THE COMPANIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING PRODUCTIVITY ON THE FMA AREA AND WILL HAVE TO RE-TREAT ANY REGENERATION FAILURES AT THEIR COST AND ACCORDING TO THE CONDITIONS IN THE AGREEMENT.

SO THE FINAL FIGURES ARE NOT ALL IN. BUT WE ARE IMPRESSED BY THE FIGURES THAT ARE. WE HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT -- AND IMPROVEMENT THAT IS TARGETED AT THE MOST PRODUCTIVE SITES, WHICH MEANS THE QUALITY OF OUR FOREST ESTATE IS ACTUALLY IMPROVING.

BEFORE TURNING TO THE FIGURES WE HAVE, I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT TO THE MEMBERS, MR. SPEAKER, THAT, PRIOR TO FMAs, THE MINISTRY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR REGENERATION. SO THE COMPANIES THAT SIGNED THE FIRST AGREEMENTS DID NOT ASSUME THE TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY IMMEDIATELY.

YOU CANNOT SWITCH FROM HARVESTING TO COMPLETE TIMBER MANAGEMENT OVERNIGHT. THERE WAS A PHASE-IN PERIOD. THE NEW DUTIES REQUIRED THE COMPANIES TO MAKE MAJOR ADJUSTMENTS IN THEIR ORGANIZATIONS, TO HIRE NEW STAFF, TO RE-ALLOCATE EXISTING STAFF AND TO UPGRADE TECHNICAL SKILLS.

FOR THE FIRST YEAR, THE MINISTRY HELPED WITH REGENERATION AND SITE PREPARATION. THE COMPANIES VERY QUICKLY TOOK OVER THE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR REGENERATING, TENDING AND SITE PREPARATION AND, BY THE FIFTH YEAR, WERE DOING ALL THIS WORK.

THE RESULTS OF THESE REVIEWS SHOW THAT THE VOLUME OF TIMBER MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY HAS DOUBLED SINCE THE COMPANIES BECAME INVOLVED.

LET ME SAY IN PASSING, MR. SPEAKER, THAT NOT EVERY SQUARE KILOMETRE IN THESE AREAS IS PRODUCTIVE FOREST LAND. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE ABITIBI-PRICE FMA, ABOUT THREE-QUARTERS OF THE LAND IS CAPABLE OF GROWING TREES. THE REMAINDER, WHICH INCLUDES WATER AND WETLAND AREAS, IS NOT SUITABLE FOR GROWING FORESTS.

BUT LET'S MOVE NOW TO THE HEART OF THESE REVIEWS. THEY SHOW THAT, IN TERMS OF AREA UNDER FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS, THERE WAS A 43-PER-CENT INCREASE IN REGENERATION, A 285-PER-CENT INCREASE IN TENDING, A 30-PER-CENT INCREASE IN SITE PREPARATION -- ALL OF THIS WITH ONLY A 15-PER-CENT INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT HARVESTED.

IN THE FIRST FIVE YEARS THE AGREEMENTS WERE IN EFFECT, THE COMPANIES HARVESTED A TOTAL OF 107,743 HECTARES, REGENERATED 68,065 HECTARES, TENDED 57,267 HECTARES AND DID SITE PREPARATION ON 62,340 HECTARES.

IN THE FIVE YEARS PRIOR TO THE AGREEMENTS -- ON THE SAME LAND -- THE COMPANIES HARVESTED 93,518 HECTARES OF FOREST LAND, AND THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES REGENERATED 47,702 HECTARES, TENDED 14,840 HECTARES AND DID SITE PREPARATION ON 47,702 HECTARES.

THE COMPANIES ALSO FULFILLED THEIR OTHER OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENTS BY INVOLVING THE PUBLIC IN PLANNING FOREST ACTIVITIES, ALTERING ACTIVITIES TO SAFEGUARD SUCH IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS AS WILDLIFE HABITAT AND RECREATION AREAS, AND KEEPING COMPLETE WORK RECORDS.

IN SOME CASES, THE COMPANIES EITHER CAME UP WITH NEW ADVANCES IN FOREST TECHNOLOGY OR TOOK ON EXTRA WORK TO IMPROVE FORESTS THEY ARE NOW RESPONSIBLE FOR.

GREAT LAKES FOREST PRODUCTS CONVERTED HARVESTING MACHINES TO ENABLE THE COMPANY TO PREPARE SOIL ON DIFFICULT SITES. AND BOTH ABITIBI-PRICE AND SPRUCE FALLS POWER AND PAPER PURCHASED SPECIAL WIDE-TIRED HARVESTING MACHINERY TO PROTECT SENSITIVE AREAS AND TO IMPROVE THE TIMING OF HARVEST ACTIVITIES.

E.B. EDDY FOREST PRODUCTS IS REPLACING RESIDUAL HARDWOOD STANDS WITH VALUABLE SOFTWOOD PLANTATIONS, EVEN THOUGH THE ORIGINAL PLANS WOULD HAVE PERMITTED NATURAL REGENERATION OF THESE SITES TO LOW-VALUE HARDWOODS LIKE BIRCH AND POPLAR.

THOSE, MR. SPEAKER, ARE A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE REVIEWS I AM NOW TABLING. THE REVIEWS PRESENTED ARE THE FIRST TO BE TABLED AND, THEREFORE, THEY ASSUME A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN RELAYING TO THE PUBLIC THE RESULTS OF TIMBER MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT HOLDERS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO TABLE THE REVIEWS OF ALL FMAS AS THE FIVE YEAR ANNIVERSARY DATES COME UP.

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER.

CP 20A
NR
- 574

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE

BY THE

HONOURABLE VINCENT KERRIO
MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JANUARY 28, 1986
2 P.M.



RESIDENT ANGLING LICENCE

MR. SPEAKER, I KNOW THE MEMBERS ARE ALL AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF TOURISM REVENUE TO ONTARIO'S ECONOMY. THEY ARE ALSO AWARE THAT THE TOURISM INDUSTRY IS BUILT IN LARGE PART UPON OUR PROVINCE'S WEALTH OF NATURAL RESOURCES -- THE SCENERY, THE WILDLIFE, THE LAKES AND THE FISHERY.

ONE OF THOSE RESOURCES -- THE FISHERY -- IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN DRAWING TOURISTS FROM OTHER PROVINCES, AND FROM THE UNITED STATES, TO ONTARIO YEAR AFTER YEAR. IN ADDITION, 38 PER CENT OF ONTARIO RESIDENTS -- APPROXIMATELY TWO AND A QUARTER MILLION PEOPLE -- FISH AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR. ALTOGETHER, SPORT FISHING REPRESENTS SOME \$700-MILLION ANNUALLY TO OUR ECONOMY. THIS IS THE EQUIVALENT OF 25,000 FULL-TIME JOBS.

MR. SPEAKER, WE ARE PROUD OF THE ABUNDANCE AND VARIETY OF FISH AND FISHING OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY THIS PROVINCE. BUT, IT IS A FACT THAT IN SOME AREAS OF ONTARIO FISH POPULATIONS AND FISHING OPPORTUNITIES CAN BE IMPROVED.

THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES CURRENTLY SPENDS MORE THAN \$30-MILLION A YEAR TO LOOK AFTER THE FISHERY. THIS MONEY IS USED FOR PROGRAMS SUCH AS FISH AND HABITAT PROTECTION, CLEANING UP FISH HABITAT, FISH STOCKING, RESEARCH, AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

BUT WE STILL NEED TO DO MUCH MORE. FOR THAT REASON, MR. SPEAKER, I AM PROPOSING TODAY THAT ONTARIO INTRODUCE A RESIDENT ANGLING LICENCE. I AM RECOMMENDING THIS ON THE CONDITION THAT MOST OF THE REVENUES GENERATED BY THE LICENCE BE USED DIRECTLY FOR PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE ONTARIO'S FISHERY -- AND ALSO ON THE CONDITION THAT MY PROPOSAL MEETS WITH THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAJORITY OF ANGLERS OF ONTARIO.

WE ESTIMATE THAT A RESIDENT LICENCE COULD ADD AN ADDITIONAL \$10-MILLION A YEAR TO OUR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BUDGET. THE INCREASED BUDGET WILL ALLOW MNR TO EXPAND ITS EXISTING PROGRAMS, AND TO INITIATE MUCH-NEEDED PROJECTS.

A RESIDENT LICENCE WILL ALSO GIVE MY MINISTRY STAFF IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT HOW THE RESOURCE IS BEING USED. IN OTHER WORDS, IT WILL TELL US WHO IS FISHING, WHERE AND FOR WHAT. THE BENEFITS OF THIS ARE THAT OUR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS WILL BE BETTER GEARED TO THE NEEDS OF THE RESOURCE USER.

WE BELIEVE THE MAJORITY OF ANGLERS SUPPORT THE CONCEPT OF A RESIDENT FISHING LICENCE AS A MEANS OF HELPING TO PAY FOR THE PROTECTION, MAINTENANCE AND REBUILDING OF THE RESOURCE THEY USE.

MY MINISTRY WOULD LIKE TO SEE A LICENCE INTRODUCED IN 1987. WHILE WE ARE PROPOSING THAT RESIDENTS AGED 18 TO 64 PAY \$10 A YEAR, AND THOSE OVER 65 PAY \$5 A YEAR, I MUST EMPHASIZE, MR. SPEAKER, THAT THESE TERMS ARE ONLY A STARTING POINT FOR DISCUSSION AND NEGOTIATION. WE WANT THE PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE IN SHAPING THE CONDITIONS -- INCLUDING THE COSTS -- OF THE LICENCE.

TO THIS END, A ROUND OF PUBLIC MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ACROSS THE PROVINCE DURING THE NEXT THREE MONTHS. THIS WILL ENABLE PUBLIC DISCUSSION AND PARTICIPATION.

AS I NOTED EARLIER, THE CONCEPT OF "USER PAYS" IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT HAS RECEIVED WIDE SUPPORT ACROSS THE PROVINCE. THIS SUPPORT COMES FROM ANGLERS AND FROM INTEREST GROUPS SUCH AS THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS, THE NORTHERN ONTARIO TOURIST OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION, THE FEDERATION OF ONTARIO NATURALISTS AND THE CANADIAN WILDLIFE FEDERATION.

I AM PLEASED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF TWO OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS -- KEN LOUNSBURY, PRESIDENT, AND RICK MORGAN, EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT, OF THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS, AND ROD MUNFORD, PRESIDENT, AND BOB MCKERCHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OF THE NORTHERN ONTARIO TOURIST OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION -- ARE HERE WITH US IN THE HOUSE TODAY TO SHARE IN MY ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS ANNOUNCEMENT.

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER.

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE

BY THE

HONOURABLE VINCENT G. KERRIO
MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

FEBRUARY 11, 1986
2 P.M.

GYPSY MOTH SPRAYING ON PRIVATE LAND

MR. SPEAKER, I AM SURE THE MEMBERS ARE ALL AWARE THAT PARTS OF EASTERN ONTARIO -- PRIMARILY IN NINE COUNTIES IN THE AREA OF TWEED, NAPANEE AND CARLETON PLACE -- ARE IN THE MIDST OF A SERIOUS GYPSY MOTH INFESTATION.

THAT INFESTATION HAS MULTIPLIED 246 TIMES IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS. BY THE END OF 1986, WE EXPECT THAT 750,000 HECTARES WILL BE UNDER ATTACK IN EASTERN ONTARIO.

GYPSY MOTHS ARE MORE THAN JUST A NUISANCE. IN THE LARVA STAGE, THESE INSECTS CAN DEFOLIATE, WEAKEN AND EVENTUALLY KILL ENTIRE FORESTS. THEY HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO DAMAGE OR DESTROY WILDLIFE HABITAT, TIMBER, AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IF THE INFESTATIONS ARE LEFT UNCHECKED, THE AREAS AFFECTED WILL SUFFER A LOSS OF JOBS IN THE FOREST, TOURISM AND RECREATION INDUSTRIES.

WE HAVE OVER THE PAST MONTH CONDUCTED FIVE OPEN HOUSES IN EASTERN ONTARIO TO OUTLINE THE PROVINCE'S PROPOSAL FOR DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM AS IT EXISTS ON CROWN LAND. TODAY, I WOULD LIKE TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUE OF PRIVATE LAND.

AS MEMBERS KNOW, AERIAL SPRAYING IS THE ONLY PRACTICAL WAY TO COVER LARGE AREAS OF INFESTED FOREST DURING THE TIME THE MOTH IS IN THE LARVA STAGE. WE BELIEVE AN AERIAL SPRAY PROGRAM FOR PRIVATE LAND IS BEST DESIGNED AND IMPLEMENTED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.

I WILL BE SEEKING AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE BOTH FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR COUNTY SPRAYING PROGRAMS. THIS SUPPORT WILL BE FORMALIZED THROUGH AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PROVINCE AND INDIVIDUAL COUNTIES.

I WILL BE RECOMMENDING THAT UNDER THE PROVINCIAL FORESTRY ACT, FUNDING BE MADE AVAILABLE IN 1986 TO ENABLE THE NINE EASTERN ONTARIO COUNTIES TO REIMBURSE PRIVATE LANDOWNERS WHO PARTICIPATE IN AN AERIAL SPRAY PROGRAM. AN AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL ACT IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE COUNTIES WITH THE AUTHORITY TO PLAN AND IMPLEMENT SPRAYING PROGRAMS ON PRIVATE LAND.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE ALL-PARTY SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAM, A STATED CONDITION WILL BE THAT FUNDING MAY ONLY BE APPLIED WHERE THE PRIVATE LAND IN QUESTION HAS BEEN SPRAYED WITH BT, A BIOLOGICAL INSECTICIDE SPRAY.

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER

CHLV
NR
-574

Government
Publications

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE
BY THE
HONOURABLE VINCENT G. KERRIO
ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES
MAY 14, 1986
2 P.M.

COMPUTERIZED MAPPING SYSTEM

MR. SPEAKER, I KNOW THE MEMBERS ARE ALL AWARE OF THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON THE WAY OUR WORLD OPERATES. WE ARE EXPERIENCING A TREND TOWARD THE MORE FREQUENT USE OF COMPUTERS TO RECORD AND EXCHANGE INFORMATION.

THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO INCREASING TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT IN ONTARIO AND MAXIMIZING THE EXPORT POTENTIAL OF THE RAPIDLY EMERGING COMPUTER MAPPING INDUSTRY.

IN RESPONSE TO THESE DEVELOPMENTS, MR. SPEAKER, MY MINISTRY WILL PROCEED WITH A TWO YEAR PROJECT -- INVOLVING AN INVESTMENT OF \$4.2-MILLION A YEAR -- TO TEST HOW COMPUTER RECORDED INFORMATION CAN BE APPLIED TO UPGRADE OUR PRESENT MAPPING SYSTEM.



MORE THAN HALF OF THESE FUNDS -- \$2.2-MILLION A YEAR -- WILL BE OBTAINED BY REDIRECTING MONIES USED UNDER THE EXISTING ONTARIO BASIC MAPPING PROGRAM, AND FROM OTHER INTERNAL FUNDS. THE REMAINING \$2-MILLION A YEAR WILL COME FROM NEW INITIATIVE FUNDING UNDER THE TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITY FUND.

I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND THE MEMBERS THAT THIS TEST PHASE OF THE COMPUTER MAPPING SYSTEM EXPANDS ON A MANDATE GIVEN TO MY MINISTRY MORE THAN 10 YEARS AGO. AT THAT TIME, THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT PRODUCTIVITY GAVE US THE RESPONSIBILITY TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE LAND-RELATED INFORMATION SYSTEM.

SINCE THEN, WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED A GREAT DEAL. WE HAVE CREATED A COMMON MEANS BY WHICH LAND-RELATED INFORMATION IS IDENTIFIED, THROUGH A COMPUTERIZED GEOGRAPHICAL REFERENCING SYSTEM. WITH THE ONTARIO BASIC MAPPING PROGRAM, WE HAVE PRODUCED HAND DRAWN MAPS TO DISPLAY BASIC TOPOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROVINCE.

WE ARE NOW AT THE POINT WHERE COMPUTER VERSION OF THIS PRODUCT IS NOT ONLY POSSIBLE, BUT VERY MUCH IN DEMAND -- BOTH IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

MR. SPEAKER, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS THE BENEFITS A COMPUTER MAPPING SYSTEM WILL HAVE TO USERS.

IT CAN SERVE AS A COMMON REFERENCE BASE FOR A VARIETY OF INFORMATION -- FROM ASSESSING FORESTRY PLANS TO DEPLOYING AMBULANCES -- THUS REDUCING THE COMPLEXITY OF DECISION MAKING. IT CAN PERMIT THE OVERLAY OF ONE PIECE OF INFORMATION ON ANOTHER. THIS NOT ONLY ADDS TO THE TOTAL INFORMATION STORED, BUT HELPS THE USER TEST THE IMPACT OF DECISIONS ON A VARIETY OF AREAS.

THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR THIS SYSTEM ARE FAR-REACHING. IT WILL PLACE THE ONTARIO MAPPING INDUSTRY IN A LEADING ROLE IN CANADIAN AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS. THIS, IN TURN, WILL CREATE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW U.S. AND OVERSEAS MARKETS.

IT WILL DIRECTLY CREATE 135 TO 200 HIGH TECHNOLOGY JOBS IN ONTARIO. AND IT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO CREATE INDIRECTLY AN ADDITIONAL 250 OR MORE JOBS FOR ONTARIANS IN CANADIAN AND OVERSEAS CONTRACTS.

IT WILL HELP TO BRIDGE THE TRANSITION FROM CONVENTIONAL TO COMPUTERIZED MAPPING TECHNOLOGIES, ENSURE STANDARDIZED COMPUTER PRODUCTS AND PROVIDE MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES TO STIMULATE BOTH INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT AWARENESS.

AS MEMBERS CAN SEE, A COMPUTER MAPPING SYSTEM WILL OFFER MANY REWARDS TO THE USER, THE PROVINCE, AND TO PRIVATE INDUSTRY.

BUT BEFORE WE CAN IMPLEMENT SUCH A SYSTEM, WE MUST GATHER THE INFORMATION IN DIGITAL FORM AND THEN TEST THE SYSTEM'S CAPABILITIES.

MR. SPEAKER, I WOULD LIKE TO OUTLINE HOW WE WILL PROCEED WITH THIS TESTING. WE PLAN TO PRODUCE ABOUT 600 COMPUTERIZED ONTARIO BASIC MAPS, ON SELECTED NORTHERN AREAS, EACH YEAR FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

THE PRODUCTION OF THESE MAPS WILL BE CONTRACTED OUT TO THE ONTARIO MAPPING INDUSTRY. THIS INDUSTRY HAS GAINED VALUABLE EXPERTISE IN COMPUTER MAPPING TECHNIQUES OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. A MARKET ANALYSIS WILL ALSO BE CONDUCTED DURING THIS TIME.

AT THE END OF THE TEST PERIOD, MY MINISTRY WILL ANALYSE THE RESULTS, AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO IMPLEMENT THIS SYSTEM AT A PROVINCIAL LEVEL.

MR. SPEAKER, THIS GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY ARTICULATED A FIRM COMMITMENT TO TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCE. THE TESTING OF THIS COMPUTER MAPPING SYSTEM WILL BRING US ONE STEP FURTHER TOWARD IMPLEMENTING A COMPEHENSIVE, PROVINCIAL MAPPING TOOL.

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER.

C-22
- 574

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE
BY THE
HONOURABLE VINCENT G. KERRIO
ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES
MAY 22, 1986
2 P.M.

ONTARIO FOREST FIRE SITUATION

MR. SPEAKER, IN VIEW OF THE TERRACE BAY EVACUATION -- AND, OF COURSE, RECENT SERIOUS FIRES IN EASTERN CANADA -- I WOULD JUST LIKE TO BRING THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE UP TO DATE ON YESTERDAY'S INCIDENT AND THE FOREST FIRE SITUATION IN GENERAL ACROSS THE PROVINCE AT THIS TIME.

YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD OF THE 2,600 RESIDENTS OF TERRACE BAY WERE EVACUATED TO NEARBY SCHRIEBER WHEN A 250-HECTARE BLAZE THREATENED AN OUTLYING SUBDIVISION.

A PRELIMINARY FIRE INVESTIGATION INDICATES THE BLAZE MAY HAVE BEEN CAUSED AS A RESULT OF WORK BEING DONE ON THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY LINE NEARBY OR BY RAILWAY TIE BURNING.

DESPITE STRONG WINDS AND QUICK SPREAD, MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOREST FIREFIGHTERS AND AIR ATTACK TEAMS WORKING WITH MUNICIPAL FIREFIGHTERS, LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE TEAMS FROM THE KIMBERLY-CLARK MILL WERE ABLE TO TAKE QUICK ACTION.

THE FIRST REPORT OF THE FIRE CAME AT 2:20 P.M. THE EVACUATION BEGAN AT 3 P.M. BY 7 P.M., RESIDENTS WERE BACK IN THEIR HOMES. NO ONE WAS INJURED AND NO PRIVATE DWELLINGS WERE BURNED.

I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION THAT THE FIREFIGHTERS WERE BACKED UP BY FOUR MNR HELICOPTERS AND FIVE HEAVY WATER BOMBERS, INCLUDING A CL-215 THAT HAD JUST RETURNED FROM FIREFIGHTING IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

BY THE WAY, BOTH CL-215 WATERBOMBERS THAT WERE SENT DOWN EAST ARE NOW BACK IN ONTARIO.

AT THIS MOMENT, THE TERRACE BAY FIRE IS IN GOOD SHAPE. FIFTY MNR FIREFIGHTERS ARE MANNING A HOSE LINE THAT COMPLETELY SURROUNDS THE FIRE AND WATER BOMBERS ARE CONTINUING TO WORK THE EDGES OF THE FIRE AREA. THERE IS NO FURTHER DANGER TO THE TOWN.

ONE OF THE HEAVY WATER BOMBERS WORKING ON THE FIRE WAS INVOLVED IN A MISHAP WHILE PICKING UP WATER. THE AIRCRAFT IS BEACHED ON HAYS LAKE ABOUT 10 KILOMETRES WEST OF TERRACE BAY. NO INJURIES OCCURRED.

I THINK THE TERRACE BAY INCIDENT IS A VERY TIMELY REMINDER THAT THE FIRE SEASON IS UNDER WAY AND THAT EVERYONE HAS TO BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL.

RIGHT NOW THERE ARE 21 FOREST FIRES BURNING IN THE PROVINCE, FOUR OF THEM NOT UNDER CONTROL. THE LARGEST BLAZE IS 32 KILOMETRES NORTHWEST OF RED LAKE -- A 480-HECTARE FIRE THAT IS BEING ATTACKED AND IS NOT A THREAT TO THE TOWN.

THE WESTERN HALF OF NORTHERN ONTARIO IS DEFINITELY THE AREA THAT BEARS WATCHING. THE FIRE HAZARD RATING IN THIS AREA RANGES FROM HIGH TO EXTREME. FOREST FIRE OFFICIALS DO NOT EXPECT ANY CHANGE IN THIS FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT FOUR DAYS.

ADDITIONAL FOREST FIRE CREWS AND EQUIPMENT ARE NOW BEING MOVED INTO THE AREA TO PROVIDE BACKUP TO LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS.

IN THE EASTERN HALF OF NORTHERN ONTARIO AND IN THE ALGONQUIN REGION, THE FIRE HAZARD IS MODERATE.

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE

BY THE

HONOURABLE VINCENT G. KERRIO

ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MAY 26, 1986

2 P.M.

FOREST FIRE UPDATE

MR. SPEAKER, I WOULD LIKE TO BRING THIS HOUSE UP TO DATE ON THE FOREST FIRE SITUATION IN ONTARIO AND SOME FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES THAT HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED.

AS MEMBERS MAY ALREADY KNOW, THE WEATHER IN THE NORTH HAS BEEN UNUSUALLY WARM AND DRY -- EVEN WARMER AND DRIER THAN IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO.

COMBINED WITH AN EARLY SNOW MELT, THIS WEATHER HAS PRODUCED HIGH TO EXTREME FOREST FIRE HAZARD CONDITIONS ACROSS THE NORTH, FROM QUEBEC TO THE MANITOBA BORDER.

TWENTY-THREE FOREST FIRES ARE CURRENTLY BURNING IN THE PROVINCE, 11 OF THEM ARE NOT UNDER CONTROL. A NUMBER OF THESE FIRES MAY HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY RAILWAY WORK PROJECTS.

WHILE MOST OF THE FIRES ARE QUITE SMALL AND THERE IS NO THREAT TO ANY COMMUNITIES, THERE ARE TWO FIRES OF SOME SIZE.

A FIRE NORTHWEST OF RED LAKE IS NOW APPROACHING 10,000 HECTARES IN SIZE. NORTH OF COCHRANE, ANOTHER FOREST FIRE HAS ALREADY CONSUMED 1,150 HECTARES.

FOREST FIRE CREWS FROM LESS THREATENED AREAS, SUCH AS THE ALGONQUIN REGION, HAVE BEEN MOVED INTO NORTHERN ONTARIO TO PROVIDE EXTRA SUPPORT.

LAST FRIDAY, I DECLARED MOST OF NORTHWESTERN AND NORTH CENTRAL ONTARIO A RESTRICTED FIRE ZONE UNTIL TOMORROW. TODAY, AS AN ADDED PREVENTION MEASURE, I AM EXTENDING THAT RESTRICTED FIRE ZONE TO COVER THE NORTHERN AND NORTHEASTERN PART OF THE PROVINCE AND EXTENDING THE TIME PERIOD TO AT LEAST FRIDAY, MAY 30.

WHILE THIS RESTRICTION DOES NOT LIMIT PUBLIC TRAVEL, IT DOES SUSPEND BURNING PERMITS AND PROHIBIT OPEN CAMP FIRES.

A LOT OF FIREFIGHTERS HAVE BEEN THROWN INTO ACTION RECENTLY AND WATER BOMBING CREWS ARE FLYING THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF HOURS.

WE ARE DEALING WITH SOME VERY HOT, FAST-SPREADING FIRES. SOME UNIT CREWS WORKING HOSE LINES HAVE HAD ALL THEIR EQUIPMENT AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS DESTROYED BECAUSE AT SOME POINTS THE FLAMES HAVE BEEN JUMPING AHEAD AT THE RATE OF 30 METRES A MINUTE.

THERE HAS BEEN PLENTY OF ACTIVITY. DESPITE THAT, MR. SPEAKER, I'M HAPPY TO SAY THERE HAVE BEEN NO SERIOUS INJURIES.

I WOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT REPORTS FROM TERRACE BAY -- WHERE WE HAD A SMALL BUT SERIOUS BLAZE LAST WEEK -- INDICATE THAT RESIDENTS ARE CREDITING HEAVY WATER BOMBING CREWS WITH HITTING THE FIRE EARLY, AND KEEPING IT AWAY FROM THE SUBDIVISION.

SOME HAVE EVEN GONE SO FAR AS TO SAY, IF IT WERE NOT FOR THIS QUICK ACTION, THAT SUBDIVISION THAT WAS THREATENED COULD EASILY HAVE BEEN LOST.

THESE COMMENTS, OF COURSE, EXTEND TO ALL THOSE WHO WORKED ON THAT FIRE AND THE EVACUATION -- LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS FROM TERRACE BAY AND SCHREIBER AND LOCAL POLICE AND OTHERS.

WE CAN BE PROUD OF ALL THEM OF DOING A GREAT JOB -- ON VERY SHORT NOTICE, I MIGHT ADD.

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER.

3120V
WE
- 574

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE
BY THE
HONOURABLE VINCENT G. KERRIO
ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES
JUNE 3, 1986
2 P.M.

FOREST FIRE UPDATE

MR. SPEAKER, I WOULD LIKE TO TELL THE MEMBERS OF
THIS HOUSE ABOUT SOME MEDIUM-SIZED MIRACLES BEING
PERFORMED BY HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE ACROSS NORTHERN
ONTARIO NOW, AND OVER THE LAST WEEK OR SO.

THE TERM "MIRACLES" MIGHT SEEM A BIT SENSATIONAL.
BUT IT CAPTURES THE FLAVOR OF WHAT I SAW LAST WEEK
WHEN I FLEW BY HELICOPTER OVER A MAJOR FIRE
NORTHWEST OF RED LAKE.

THAT FIRE, WHICH IS STILL NOT UNDER CONTROL, HAS
DESTROYED 475 SQUARE KILOMETRES OR MORE THAN
100,000 ACRES OF FOREST -- INCLUDING VALUABLE
TIMBER AND WILDLIFE HABITAT.

RED LAKE 7 IS ONLY ONE OF 28 FIRES BURNING IN ONTARIO RIGHT NOW. IT HAS BEEN SLOWED TO A CRAWL BY FOUR DAYS OF COOL DAMP WEATHER, BUT IT IS STILL POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS -- AS IS THE SITUATION ACROSS THE NORTH.

AS A RESULT, THE RESTRICTED FIRE ZONE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO FRIDAY IN THE NORTHWEST, BUT HAS BEEN LIFTED IN MNR'S NORTH CENTRAL, NORTHERN AND NORTHEASTERN REGIONS.

WE'RE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THIS SLIGHT BREAK, WHICH INCLUDES SOME RAIN LAST NIGHT IN THE RED LAKE AREA. FIRE OFFICIALS ARE SCRAMBLING RIGHT NOW TO GAIN AS MUCH GROUND AS THEY CAN ON FIRES, AND TO GET AS MANY CREWS AND AS MUCH EQUIPMENT INTO PLACE AS THEY CAN.

THIS IS JUST THE START OF THE FIRE SEASON. WE HAVE THE REST OF SPRING AND THE WHOLE SUMMER AHEAD OF US -- AND IT COULD BE A LONG, HOT ONE.

GIVEN THE DANGER WE FACE, I WOULD LIKE TO UNDERLINE THE PROVINCE'S FOREST FIREFIGHTING PRIORITIES.

OUR FIRST PRIORITY IS PEOPLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY. THAT'S ALWAYS OUR FIRST PRIORITY. THE SECOND PRIORITY IS PRIVATE PROPERTY. AND THE THIRD PRIORITY IS THE PROTECTION OF OTHER RESOURCE VALUES. THAT IS OUR VALUE SYSTEM IN A NUTSHELL.

WE CAN BE THANKFUL THIS PROVINCE HAS DEVELOPED A HECK OF A SYSTEM TO MEET THOSE PRIORITIES. ON MY RECENT TRIP NORTH I SAW A SMOOTH-FUNCTIONING, SKILLED, DEDICATED ORGANIZATION, STAFFED BY COMPETENT MNR PEOPLE. I SAW IT IN PLACE, AND I SAW IT WORKING.

THE OTHER THING I WANT TO SAY IS THAT THE RESIDENTS OF NORTHERN ONTARIO SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR TREMENDOUS RESPONSE TO OUR RESTRICTED FIRE ZONE. THE NUMBER OF MAN-CAUSED FIRES IS DOWN SUBSTANTIALLY AS A RESULT OF THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN ONTARIO TAKING THE RESTRICTIONS TO HEART AND BEING VERY CAREFUL.

JUST BRIEFLY, LET ME SUM UP THE FOREST FIRE SITUATION IN ONTARIO.

WE HAVE 28 FIRES BURNING ON A TOTAL OF ROUGHLY 1,200 SQUARE KILOMETRES, SOME OF WHICH ARE SO FAR NORTH THEY ARE SIMPLY BEING OBSERVED.

RED LAKE 7 NOW COVERS 473 SQUARE KILOMETRES AND IS 15 KILOMETRES NORTHWEST OF RED LAKE. GROUND FORCES ARE ESTABLISHING A 90-KILOMETRE-LONG HOSE AND BULLDOZER LINE ALONG THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN BOUNDARIES.

COUNTING SUPPORT STAFF, THERE ARE 500 FIREFIGHTERS WORKING ON RED LAKE 7, INCLUDING 16 NEW CREWS WHICH MOVED IN MONDAY. THEY ARE BEING SUPPORTED BY NINE BULLDOZERS ON LOAN FROM GREAT LAKES FOREST PRODUCTS LIMITED.

THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY RED LAKE 7 HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE. HALF THE FIRE IS IN WOODLAND CARIBOU PROVINCIAL PARK, THE REST IS IN A VALUABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT THROUGH WHICH A \$9.1-MILLION ACCESS ROAD WAS RECENTLY BUILT.

THE FIRE HAS ALSO DESTROYED YEARS OF DETAILED FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING FOR THAT AREA, PLANS THAT HAD JUST BEEN COMPLETED. SO FAR, ONLY ONE TOURIST LODGE HAS BEEN LOST TO THE FIRE WHICH ALSO HAD THE POTENTIAL TO ENVELOP SEVERAL OTHERS, WHICH WERE PROTECTED BY MINISTRY CREWS.

ACROSS THE PROVINCE, A TOTAL OF ALMOST 900 FIREFIGHTERS AND 300 SUPPORT STAFF ARE INVOLVED IN OPERATIONS, BACKED UP BY 14 HEAVY WATER BOMBERS AND 41 HELICOPTERS.

WE HAVE HAD SOME UNEXPECTED RELIEF FROM THE WEATHERMAN. THAT'S GOOD, BUT THE BENEFITS COULD BE WIPED OUT WITH JUST A FEW DAYS OF WARM, WINDY WEATHER.

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER.



3A20N
NR

- 574

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE

BY THE

HONOURABLE VINCENT G. KERRIO
ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1986

Revisions to the Surveyors Act

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to introduce a bill to revise the Surveyors Act.

This Act has been amended periodically to reflect specialization and technological advances in the surveying field, as well as to ensure high professional standards.

These revisions are a part of that tradition.

The revisions incorporate four different -- but related -- specialized surveying disciplines under one statute. The four disciplines are cadastral surveying, which deals with boundary locations; photogrammetry, or obtaining information about land features through aerial photography; hydrography, the surveying of underwater features for navigation; and geodesy, the science of determining the size and shape of the earth and the interrelationship of points on its surface.

The revisions to the Act divide the members of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors into two groups: those wishing to practise cadastral surveying will require a licence; and those qualified in the other three disciplines will be entitled to certificates of registration.

This bill also establishes a number of committees designed to protect the public interest in professional land surveying.

Timely revisions undertaken since the Act was passed in 1892 have helped create and maintain a strong professional surveying community here in Ontario. The revisions under consideration now are simply part of that continual updating and improving process.

CA20N

NR

- 574

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE

BY THE

HONOURABLE VINCENT G. KERRIO
ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1986
2:00 P.M.

SOFTWOOD LUMBER TARIFFS

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make sure everyone in this house understands this government's position regarding the U.S. Department of Commerce's 15 per cent countervailing duty on Canada's softwood lumber exports to the United States.

There is no doubt in our minds, Mr. Speaker, that we absolutely oppose this decision. It is unfair and unacceptable. And I want to assure honourable members that this fight is far from over.

I also want to make it clear that we should not view this as the final decision. The commerce department will announce its final decision on the subsidy December 30.

We will do our utmost -- in conjunction with our Canadian colleagues in government, industry and labor -- to convince the American government of the unfairness of the preliminary finding.

In 1983, the Commerce Department ruled that the Canadian stumpage systems were generally available and could not, in effect, be a subsidy to the forest industries. Since then, the systems have not changed, and the stumpage fees in Ontario and other provinces have actually increased -- by 25 per cent in Ontario alone.

I find it very difficult to understand the logic behind the about-face by the U.S. government in now deciding that the stumpage systems are countervailable.

Mr. Speaker, I now would like to bring the house up to date on what has been happening on this issue between the provincial governments and the federal government during the past few months.

In September 1985, officials from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology, together with representatives from the federal government and the forest industries, mapped out a program to provide Ontario assistance to the softwood lumber industry using M.I.T.T.'s field offices in the United States. Senior officials of that ministry, working with Canadian consulates across the U.S., subsequently developed U.S. allies in support of the Canadian position.

In October 1985, the Premier went to Washington and addressed the softwood lumber issue with U.S. politicians and members of the administration.

Since July of 1985, I personally have attended a number of meetings with my provincial and federal counterparts, and officials from my ministry attended frequent sessions and were in close contact with their colleagues.

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, and I met repeatedly with other provincial and federal ministers -- along with senior officials from our respective ministries.

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology met with James Kelleher on June 17 regarding this matter, and with Pat Carney on September 10.

Within weeks of the initial announcement of the U.S. industry petition for a tariff in 1986, we met with provincial and federal ministers in Vancouver to come up with a strategy which would best serve the interests of this country, and those provinces with the most to lose -- Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta and Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize the importance of this issue to our province. We are talking about jobs here in Ontario. We are talking about up to \$600-million in Ontario's softwood exports. We have been strongly supporting our industry in its fight against this case.

We had very serious reservations about the approach of the federal government to negotiate a settlement before the preliminary determination. We made our reservations about this approach clearly known from the beginning, but it was only after the federal government was committed to negotiate that the provinces were brought along.

It is clear, Mr. Speaker, that all those involved in Canada must work together. This is why I welcome an opportunity to meet tomorrow with my provincial and federal colleagues.

We have felt from the beginning -- and we still feel today -- that we should be a member of the Canadian team and work together to avoid disaster for the softwood industry in this country. But, of course, I must emphasize that the interests of Ontario -- our industry, labor and communities -- are paramount.

This issue has an impact on Canada as a whole. This is a national issue where we need prudent national leadership. It also has an impact on the forest industries as a whole, not just the lumber business. and on the vitality of the economy of Ontario. This ruling, if accepted, creates a dangerous precedent, Mr. Speaker, one we must avoid at all costs.

The decision which has been rendered is both unfair and unacceptable. We oppose it, and we will continue to oppose it. And in this we are also representing Ontario's forest industries. Earlier today, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology I met with senior officials of the forest industries, and we have their wholehearted support for our position on the countervail.

Ontario government officials meet today with their provincial and federal counterparts and representatives of industry and labor, to plan strategy. Tomorrow, as I mentioned, I will meet with other provincial and federal Ministers on this subject.

Mr. Speaker, we are adamantly opposed to this unfair ruling and we will fight it with all the resources at our command.

CARON
NR
- 574

Car
Publication

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE

BY THE

HONOURABLE VINCENT G. KERRIO
ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1986
2 P.M.



SOFTWOOD LUMBER TARIFFS

Mr. Speaker, I want to update members of the Legislature this afternoon on the latest developments concerning the U.S. Department of Commerce's decision regarding Canadian softwood lumber exports to the United States.

On Monday, I told you that Ontario's position was that the provinces, the federal government and industry had to fight this decision to impose a 15 per cent countervailing duty on our lumber and, above all, that we had to stand united in our efforts.

I said that Ontario would do its utmost as part of a Canadian team.

Yesterday, at a meeting with my provincial and federal counterparts, I advanced this position during a detailed discussion of the options open to us.

I am pleased to say that Ontario's view prevailed at this meeting. All parties agree with our position that we must fight to reverse this decision.

At this moment, we are working together to investigate all diplomatic and legal channels to bring home to the U.S. administration why this unfair decision must be reversed.

From a legal point of view, it is clear to all of us that the preliminary decision is highly questionable. It is manifestly weak in its analysis and contrived in its evidence. We are advised that it is seriously flawed.

In addition, following legal advice that the preliminary decision is faulty, and our own identification of major errors, officials -- including those from Ontario -- are preparing a basis for refuting the decision.

Through this kind of solidarity we will stand united in our fight to oppose this threat to a vital Canadian industry.

We will fight this ruling, fight it together and fight it hard.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

3A22V
1VX
-574

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE

BY THE

HONOURABLE VINCENT G. KERRIO
ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OCTOBER 27, 1986
2 P.M.

MINISTRY ACTION PLAN FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT

Mr. Speaker, I rose in this House a year ago -- on October 18, to be precise -- to inform honourable members that an independent audit of my ministry's forest management practices would be carried out by a distinguished forestry expert from outside Ontario.

I emphasized then, Mr. Speaker, that this independent review would be part of a comprehensive strategy to evaluate and update our forest management procedures, and to provide greater public scrutiny of the processes of government.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that over the past year, we have made considerable progress on that commitment.

The practices of my ministry have been open to unprecedented public examination and review. I am confident that the result will be improved forest management techniques and administration and a strengthening of public confidence in our work -- and in the future of our valuable forest resource.

As honourable members know, I have already released to the public a report on forest management by the Provincial Auditor, as well as the ministry's response to that report. I have also made public the first five-year reviews of the first Forest Management Agreements, or FMAs, in Ontario. I plan to release the second set of FMA reviews very shortly. And the class environmental assessment hearing into the ministry's timber management practices will begin in a few months.

Last month, I made public the Audit of Management of the Crown Forests of Ontario conducted by Dr. Gordon Baskerville, Dean of Forestry at the University of New Brunswick. Since the House was in recess and I was anxious not to delay release of this report, it was made public at a news conference in Thunder Bay on September 4.

On the same day, I released a document called The Forest Resources of Ontario - 1986, a report on the nature and extent of our forest estate prepared by ministry staff.

Since then, Mr. Speaker, my ministry has been preparing an action plan to respond to Dean Baskerville's report, in addition to our ongoing reviews of forest management in Ontario. I am pleased to table that action plan today.

The day after release of his report, Dean Baskerville met with key foresters from the ministry in Thunder Bay for an all-day workshop. This month, he met with the ministry team drawing up our action plan. His advice has been most helpful.

My Deputy Minister and senior ministry staff have received suggestions on what should go into the action plan from all across the ministry, including field staff in the districts and regions.

Before I talk about the plan itself, however, I would like to share with you some remarks made by Dean Baskerville at that Thunder Bay news conference.

I quote: "In my opinion, the structure of forest management in Ontario is sound. The operation of the structure needs attention, mainly to ensure that what Ontario gets in the forest over time is indeed what Ontario is aiming for. The fundamental need is for the ministry to examine and refine what is essentially a sound approach." End of quote.

To me, that means that we have our feet on solid ground. We need to shift our position or modify our stance in some areas, but we have a firm base on which to move.

The action plan deals with the five major issues which Dean Baskerville identified as requiring action. We have formulated a number of specific initiatives to meet those concerns. In a few cases, changes were already under way. In all, there are 16 parts to this action plan.

Since I cannot take the time of the house to read all of them, and since members will be receiving copies of the plan and a summary of the 16 initiatives, I will only highlight some of the directions we are taking.

We have placed firm target dates on the changes to be made. For example, the Ontario Wood Supply Model, which the ministry uses to determine harvest levels, will be modified to provide improved local projections. The new supply model will be in the hands of all field foresters by December 1987.

New information on timber volumes for areas of the existing natural forest, specific to the management unit level, will be available by December 1987. A current survey of the new, regenerated forest to determine areas, species and growth will be expanded to cover the whole province and completed by December 1988.

Beginning in 1987, all new timber management plans will contain clear statements of objectives that are measurable and attainable. A new forest production policy, taking into account the supply capability of Ontario's forests and the demands of industry, will be developed and completed by October 1988.

Another feature of this action plan is its use of experts from outside government. A group of ministry and forest industry persons under the chairmanship of Dr. James Kayll, Director of Forestry at Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, will establish more detailed criteria for forest stand allocation to ensure the best timber utilization.

This is right in line with one of the recommendations in the recent report on resource dependent communities in northern Ontario.

A panel of academics in the forestry field will advise the ministry on appropriate training for upgrading the expertise of our practising professionals.

And a group headed by Dr. Robert Rosehart, President of Lakehead University, will evaluate the ministry's Forest Resource Inventory, or FRI. The group will include environmentalists, academics and forest industry representatives.

Dean Baskerville said in his report that the FRI is a reasonable base as used in current forest management planning, but he noted that we have a public credibility problem with the inventory. It would be impractical to physically count every tree in the forests of Ontario. The key issue here is the validity of the ministry's techniques for assessing the forest inventory.

We are counting on Dr. Rosehart's committee to provide us with a definitive assessment of the Forest Resources Inventory, and recommend a process for verifying it on an ongoing basis.

As members can see, we've done a lot already. But some parts of this action plan involve further studies -- studies which will be made public when they are completed. I would like to emphasize that these studies are needed to ensure that the changes we make are the right ones. I can assure you that we will take the appropriate steps when the results of these studies are in hand.

Dean Baskerville did not present us with a list of specific recommendations. He left it to the ministry to work out reasoned solutions to some complicated problems. And he cautioned against quick, "knee-jerk" responses. We are mindful of that advice.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to call members' attention to the breadth of this plan. The process of reform which we have set in motion is not mere tinkering. This plan is a major step forward. It will carry forest management in Ontario into the 21st century.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

17/1/86
NA
- 574

G070
Publ

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE

BY

THE HONOURABLE VINCENT G. KERRIO
ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1986
2 P.M.

GREAT LAKES FLOODING

Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to update the House on the flooding situation along the Great Lakes.

As members know, strong westerly and southwest winds last weekend caused high lake levels and waves which led to some flooding along Lakes Erie, Superior, Huron and Georgian Bay.

However, I am pleased to report that this flooding was not as severe as originally anticipated due in part to the fact that the high winds were gusting, which limited the extent of the flooding.

On Monday, I toured the Port Colborne-Port Dover area where there was some flooding. Later that day, I flew over flooded areas in the Collingwood-Parry Sound area.

Mr. Speaker, staff from a number of ministries are providing assistance, and helping deal with this situation wherever possible.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs is providing low-interest loans to owners of private property to allow them to undertake protective works or to repair damaged structures.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is providing a technical advisory service to property owners who want to repair shoreline damage.

And the Ministries of Transportation and Communications and Agriculture and Food are both assisting with specific repair projects.

Members may recall that last April I advised the house that I had appointed my Parliamentary Assistant, the Honourable Member for Kent-Elgin, to head a committee to study long-term solutions for shoreline management along the Great Lakes.

This summer, committee members set up more than 20 public meetings which were attended by a total of 1,500 people. They collected information and opinions about the management of the Great Lakes shoreline. This committee has just completed its report, and I expect to table it in the house before the end of this month.

Mr. Speaker, I know members appreciate that there is nothing we can do to control the extreme water level fluctuations in the Great Lakes. What we can do -- and what we are doing -- is look for ways to minimize the damage and hardship caused by these high water levels.

I expect to be returning to this house shortly with some proposals that will allow us to deal with the long-term problem of shoreline flooding.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CARON

NR

574

George
F. ...

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE

BY

THE HONOURABLE VINCENT G. KERRIO
ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DECEMBER 2, 1986
2 P.M.

AMENDMENTS TO THE GAME AND FISH ACT



Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce a Bill that will result in a number of timely and wide-ranging amendments to Ontario's Game and Fish Act.

Game and fish are important resources to the lifestyles of many Ontarians.

And, of course, they are of great benefit to the province's economy. This is especially true in northern Ontario, where tourism is a major industry.

It is therefore vital to have forward-looking legislation to assist in the management of Ontario's wildlife and fisheries resources, and in the regulation of the users of those resources.

The Game and Fish Act has not been amended since 1980, and we require various changes to implement programs which have been developed since then. Such programs as the new aquaculture and black bear management programs will enable the private sector to provide better and enhanced services to its clients.

As well, the amendments will enable Ontario to protect its own wildlife and fisheries interests and, at the same time, assist other jurisdictions in meeting their objectives. National and international trade in wildlife and fisheries products are now a fact of life which must be faced.

These and other amendments will lead to more effective administration of the Act, and address enforcement problems which have become more acute in recent years.

Altogether, the proposed amendments deal with changes to 49 sections in the Game and Fish Act. I won't discuss every one, but I would like to take a moment, Mr. Speaker, to highlight several key ones.

One group of amendments concerns how black bear will be managed in Ontario. In recent years, this animal has become a prized big-game species. Changes are required to permit better control of the harvest, to prevent the destruction of dens and to control hunting methods. These changes will have a very positive effect on our northern tourist industry.

Another amendment deals with the expansion of the commercial aquaculture industry. The ministry wishes to encourage its further growth and this requires changes to permit the culture of additional fish species.

Still other amendments address the issue of keeping game in captivity. The present Act permits any game species to be kept in captivity without regulation for 10 days.

As a result, it is virtually impossible to prove that a particular specimen has been held continuously for that length of time. Further, the terms "captivity" and "game bird" are ambiguous.

Such inadequacies have made it extremely difficult to effectively prevent the keeping of such species as falcons, black bear and deer, whether imported or taken from the wild in Ontario.

It is therefore necessary to clarify the government's intent concerning the entire issue of the keeping of game in captivity.

Another issue concerns the relatively recent, and highly successful, reintroduction of wild turkeys to Ontario. This means that such aspects as hunter licensing and control of hunting methods must be dealt with in the amendments.

Ontario has an excellent record on hunter safety. To improve on this even further, I am recommending that legislative authority be established to require hunters to wear hunter orange garments. Also, I am proposing that it be considered an offence to be hunting with a firearm while impaired.

Finally, I would like to point out that persons who violate any part of the Act for commercial gain will face much stiffer penalties than in the past. The existing maximum penalty of \$5,000 will increase to \$50,000 or imprisonment for a maximum of two years less a day, or both.

Mr. Speaker, these are some of the highlights of the proposed changes to the Game and Fish Act. All of the amendments are the product of a long and thorough process of consultation and preparation.

I strongly believe that the Bill to amend the Act reflects the concerns of the people and various interest groups of this province, as much as my ministry.

That is why I look forward to the Bill's speedy passage through this House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CARON
NR
-574

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE

BY THE

HONOURABLE VINCENT G. KERRIO

ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1986

1:30 P.M.



LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR GREAT LAKES SHORELINES

Mr. Speaker, today I wish to advise the House that the province will implement a long-term program for the management of shorelines along the Great Lakes.

I am pleased today to table a report by the Shoreline Management Review Committee that recommends long-term solutions for managing the Great Lakes shoreline.

The committee -- chaired by the Honourable Member for Kent-Elgin -- has made fundamental recommendations in four categories: jurisdiction, prevention, protection and emergency response. We are acting on a number of these recommendations right now, and others will be announced in the coming months.

Our first action has to be prevention. This government will be drafting a provincial policy governing shorelines immediately.

We must also ensure that we have the most up-to-date mapping possible. We must be able to provide people planning shoreline development with good advice on protective works, flood proofing and effects on adjacent property.

There is some mapping of hazard lands carried out under the Canada-Ontario Flood Damage Agreement. But there must be more.

In addition, the public will have to contribute to important decisions affecting the shoreline. At the suggestion of the committee, I will appoint a Shoreline Management Advisory Council to regularly solicit public opinion and advise the government.

Also, Mr. Speaker, we must act on the issue of protection for existing development.

I have asked my staff -- in conjunction with representatives from the Ministries of Municipal Affairs and Treasury and Economics -- to report back in three months with a comprehensive means of protecting large, vulnerable stretches of the shoreline.

We must remember that the Great Lakes are an international body of water, involving not only the Province of Ontario but also the governments of Canada and the United States.

The Government of Canada must be our partner in any large scale capital works program. In fact, Ontario is anxious to consult on this problem with the federal government. And, Mr. Speaker, I have already written to the federal Minister of the Environment to request his support.

In the meantime, the government will allocate an additional \$700,000 for this fiscal year to expand the technical advisory service program to shoreline property owners and the provision of sandbags for emergency protection.

We will also allocate another \$1-million to the low-interest loan program. This will bring the total annual level of funding to \$4.5-million.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE

BY THE HONOURABLE VINCENT G. KERRIO
ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JANUARY 12, 1987
1:30 P.M.

SOFTWOOD LUMBER EXPORT TAX

Mr. Speaker, I should like to inform the House of my government's response to a recent agreement between the federal government and the United States to impose a 15-per-cent export tax on softwood lumber.

We have been opposed to these negotiations from the beginning. As I wrote in a letter to U.S. Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige on December 15, we believe the information and methodology used by the U.S. to reach its position in the preliminary determination was flawed, and that the decision went far beyond the scope and intention of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Further, our belief in the integrity and fairness of our forest management programs is so strong that we believe the U.S. position could have been successfully challenged.

A very impressive case against the preliminary determination was made to the Department of Commerce by the Canadian lumber industry. The Ontario government took the position of supporting the lumber industry in its fight against the arbitrary imposition of countervailing duties by the United States.

Instead, an agreement to terminate the countervailing duty investigation was reached on December 30 between the Canadian and American governments, without the support of the Ontario government. Again, Ontario was not alone in its opposition to negotiating an agreement. We have had the support of almost the entire Canadian lumber industry, including the Ontario Forest Industry, the Canadian Forest Industry Council, and the Lumber and Sawmill Workers' Union.

The softwood lumber agreement with the United States puts a 15-per-cent tax on the final mill price of all softwood lumber exports to the U.S. Ottawa has apparently accepted the responsibility to collect at least \$500-million each year in export duties.

This tax can be reduced or eliminated if the provinces agree to increase the stumpage or other charges they may impose on producers. But the calculation of the value of these replacement measures must be approved by federal and U.S. officials.

Mr. Speaker, my government finds this agreement totally unacceptable. We believe that major components of the Canadian-U.S. softwood lumber agreement constitute a significant intrusion on provincial sovereignty. In fact, imposing an export tax on a provincial resource in this manner would appear to be a violation of provincial jurisdiction under the Constitution.

Not only does it intrude on the provinces' rights to exercise control over provincial resources, it puts the management of our Canadian forest resources under the supervision of the United States government.

Under the terms of this agreement, the money Ottawa collects will be closely monitored by the U.S., to make sure Canadian producers or exporters do not receive any benefit from it. Moreover, the U.S. government must approve the calculation of the value of replacement measures and has interpreted this to mean U.S. approval for any reduction in the federal export charges. In addition, the U.S. will oversee Canadian measures such as the provision of grants, low-cost loans and the awarding of contracts for forestry activities on a non-competitive basis.

These conditions impose serious limitations on the capability of the province to develop policies or programs, or even deliver existing programs, to assist the Ontario softwood lumber industry toward further modernization and international competitiveness. Further, it sets major constraints on the ability of the provinces to use the export tax revenues to support affected firms, workers and communities.

The federal government would have us believe that the agreement preserves for the provinces exclusive responsibility over our forest management policies.

However, the United States government, in close consultation with the U.S. softwood lumber industry, can determine that provincial measures to replace the federal export tax are unacceptable and violate the U.S. interpretation of the December 30 agreement. If the agreement, as interpreted by the United States, has been violated, the U.S. will be able to take further, unilateral, action against Canadian softwood lumber exports.

In this case, tariffs or other retaliatory measures on Canadian exports can be imposed by administration fiat, and Canadian defence in U.S. courts is limited. Indeed, the threat of unilateral retaliation provides even less certainty for Canadian softwood lumber exporters as a result of this agreement.

The United States has spelled out its interpretation of the agreement in a letter from Malcolm Baldrige and Clayton Yeutter to the Coalition for Fair Lumber Imports. The Canadian government has stated that this letter was not the subject of negotiations and is not part of the agreement. Nonetheless, in the case of disagreement between the parties as to interpretation of the agreement, the U.S. industry would certainly submit the letter as evidence of the meaning of the agreement. The U.S. government would be hard-pressed, both politically and legally, to disavow its own interpretation as expressed in the letter.

Mr. Speaker, I have described in some detail a few of Ontario's major concerns with this agreement in terms of the loss of provincial sovereignty and the threat of U.S. retaliation. I believe that the federal government must address these concerns.

Equally, if not more importantly, we view this agreement as a capitulation to U.S. protectionism which will encourage similar actions in the future against other provincially-controlled resources and Ontario exporters.

Mr. Speaker, this agreement promises to have a devastating effect on the economy and social fabric of Northern Ontario communities.

Many of the towns in northern Ontario are dependent on a single industry -- forestry. There are few other opportunities for these people to find other employment.

And yet, not only do we find ourself hurt by a situation that has been thrust upon us, the terms of the agreement as I described earlier could well prevent us from helping those workers who have lost their jobs due to the export tax or those communities which are dependent on the forest sector.

Since the federal government is directly responsible for creating this situation, I am aggressively seeking federal assistance to help alleviate the suffering it is going to cause. Ottawa must assume responsibility for creating this situation, and it must show leadership in helping the provinces deal with the consequences. I will be meeting with Ms Carney and the other provincial ministers in Vancouver next Wednesday and will be discussing these concerns at that time.

Mr. Speaker, I am also very concerned about what will happen to the approximately \$500-million the federal government expects to collect as a result of this tax.

At the First Ministers' Conference in Vancouver, the Prime Minister committed himself to a 100-per-cent flowback of any export tax revenues to the provinces affected. I fully expect the Prime Minister will honor that commitment.

In addition, the financial flowback must not in any way disrupt previously negotiated federal-provincial funding programs, including Forest Management Agreements.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about the fact that this agreement may result in the diversion of lumber from one province to another. If excess lumber from the West Coast, for example, is directed to Ontario because the export tax has priced it out of traditional U.S. markets, it could lead to even more layoffs in this province. The federal government has failed to address this possibility.

Ontario's opposition to this agreement is clear. We will be doing everything in our power to reduce the inevitable job loss and decline in economic activity this agreement will cause. And we will be working with the other provinces as much as possible to minimize the harm this agreement is going to do to Canada.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE

BY

THE HONOURABLE VINCENT G. KERRIO
ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

FEBRUARY 2, 1987
1:30 P.M.

WILDLIFE '87

MR. SPEAKER, AS MEMBERS OF THIS HOUSE KNOW, THIS GOVERNMENT IS VERY MUCH COMMITTED TO KEEPING ONTARIO A WORLD LEADER IN THE RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE. AND SO I AM VERY PLEASED TO TELL YOU TODAY THAT ONTARIO WILL BE INVOLVED IN WILDLIFE '87, THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION YEAR DECLARED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

WILDLIFE '87 IS A NATIONAL EFFORT COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF CANADA'S FIRST WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, AT LAST MOUNTAIN LAKE, SASKATCHEWAN.

THE PROGRAM HAS A NUMBER OF OBJECTIVES WHICH ARE NOT ONLY A PRIORITY FOR MY MINISTRY AND THE GOVERNMENT, BUT FOR A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE RESIDENTS OF ONTARIO.

FIRST AND FOREMOST, WILDLIFE '87 WILL ENCOURAGE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES BY INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES, GOVERNMENTS AND CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS.

WE HAVE ALREADY BEGUN THAT ENCOURAGEMENT. I AM VERY PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE HERE TODAY THAT THE FIRST WINNER OF THE CONSERVATIONIST OF THE MONTH AWARD CELEBRATING WILDLIFE '87 HAS BEEN CHOSEN UNDER THE PROGRAM. IT IS BEING AWARDED TO LLOYD COOK, OF BARRIE, ONTARIO, FOR HIS LONG AND DISTINGUISHED RECORD IN THE STUDY, PRACTICE AND TEACHING OF HUMANE TRAPPING.

RECOGNITION OF CONTRIBUTIONS SUCH AS THOSE MADE BY MR. COOK IS ONE PURPOSE OF WILDLIFE '87, MR. SPEAKER. IN ADDITION, THIS PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE A NATIONAL THEME AND FOCUS FOR OUR CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES, ENCOURAGE AND IMPROVE NETWORKING AND DIALOGUE BETWEEN NATIONAL CONSERVATION GROUPS, AND PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE WORLD CONSERVATION STRATEGY.

THIS IS THE STRATEGY ADVOCATING SOUND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION, WRITTEN IN 1980 BY THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES, OR (IUCN). IT IS ENDORSED BY GOVERNMENTS AND INDEPENDENT GROUPS AROUND THE WORLD.

MR. SPEAKER, ONTARIO HAS A LONG-STANDING AND PROUD RECORD OF LEADERSHIP IN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT. WE ARE AN ACKNOWLEDGED LEADER IN THE MANAGEMENT OF FURBEARING ANIMALS AND IN THE STUDY OF RABIES.

IN THE 1980s, OUR HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM CAME TO FRUITION, AND NOW STANDS AS AN EXAMPLE OF SOUND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT TO OTHER PROVINCES AND AMERICAN STATES.

IN THIS NATIONAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION YEAR, WE WILL BE MOVING AGGRESSIVELY TO DO OUR PART.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION YEAR WILL SEE ONTARIO TAKING STEPS TO BETTER MANAGE BLACK BEAR POPULATIONS, STEP UP THE RE-INTRODUCTION OF PEREGRINE FALCONS TO THE WILD, SPOTLIGHT OUR EXCITING AND INNOVATIVE NEW EDUCATION PROGRAM CALLED PROJECT WILD, AND TRANSFER MOOSE TO MICHIGAN, IN CO-OPERATION WITH U.S. CONSERVATIONISTS.

WE WILL EMPHASIZE OUR COMMUNITY WILDLIFE INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM, OR CWIP, UNDER WHICH CONSERVATION-MINDED GROUPS CAN GET FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PROJECTS TO IMPROVE WILDLIFE HABITATS.

THIS SUMMER, MR. SPEAKER, ONTARIO WILL MAKE AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE NAMING OF A WETLAND OF INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE AT AN INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CONVENTION IN REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN.

ONTARIO WILL ALSO BE A STRONG PARTICIPANT AT THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES, TO BE HELD IN OTTAWA THIS SUMMER.

OUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THIS EVENT WILL AGAIN SHOW THAT ONTARIO IS, WITHOUT QUESTION, A LEADER IN THE FIELD OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT.

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE, MR. SPEAKER, THAT DURING 1987 WE WILL FOCUS OUR EXPERTISE AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES ON THE PREPARATION OF A DISCUSSION PAPER ON LONG RANGE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT. THIS AMBITIOUS INITIATIVE WILL TAKE US INTO THE NEXT 100 YEARS OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND IS VERY MUCH IN KEEPING WITH THE WILDLIFE '87 THEME, "GAINING MOMENTUM."

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER.

CASPH
NR
S74

Government
Publication

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE

BY

THE HONOURABLE VINCENT G. KERRIO
ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1987
3:00 P.M.

FIRE RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT IN "COTTAGE COUNTRY"

Mr. Speaker, one week ago I stood here and told you about the serious forest fire situation in northern Ontario.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you that the continuing good weather means that the fire hazard is now extreme.

Thirty-eight new fires started in the province yesterday. There are a total of 87 fires now burning, covering 13,000 hectares. Twenty-two of them are out control. Seven of them are major.

Because of the very dry conditions and the serious fire hazard over large parts of Ontario, I announced this morning that my ministry is imposing a total ban on all open fires throughout the province's forest fire regions.

That ban includes almost all of northern Ontario. It also includes such holiday areas as Algonquin Park, the Bruce Peninsula, the Muskoka and Haliburton and Tweed areas, and northern Lanark County.

The fire restrictions begin at midnight tonight and will extend until at least May 31.

In effect, this ban means absolutely no open fires are allowed. It means all permits for burning debris are suspended. And it also means people should not be using fire to destroy clusters of insects, such as forest tent caterpillars. And unfortunately, despite the upcoming holiday weekend, fireworks are not permitted.

Mr. Speaker, I would stress that we have not imposed travel restrictions. People who planned to go north for the weekend do not have to stay home. They can still have barbecues. They can still cook meals on portable stoves or on charcoal burners. The difference is that these fires are well-contained.

Mr. Speaker, my ministry is making every effort to inform the public of these important fire restrictions. People who are not sure if their area is included should contact any Ministry of Natural Resources office for information. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is that these restrictions be followed.

I received a message this morning from the Ontario Forest Industries Association calling the restricted fire zone a "wise move" and giving us its full support.

Mr. Speaker, Ontario has about 750 people actively committed to fire duties and another 800 either on standby, in reserve for initial attack operations, or assisting in some other capacity. Our air fleet includes some 65 helicopters and 14 heavy water bombers.

I was in northwestern Ontario and met with fire fighters last Friday. At that time, I congratulated them on their efforts. I would like to do so again today. And I want to assure this House that every effort is being made to contain these fires.

We are doing our best, but nature can be a ferocious opponent. We are asking for the co-operation of the public in helping us to protect public safety, private property and our valuable resources.

3120V
NR
- 574

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE

BY THE


HONOURABLE VINCENT G. KERRIO
ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JUNE 1, 1987

Carolinian Canada Memorandum Of Understanding

Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the Honourable Lily Munro and I would like to inform the members of a memorandum of understanding that will be signed between our respective ministries today. It will deal with the protection of native plants, animals and natural habitats of an area in southern Ontario known as Carolinian Canada.

The memorandum commits a total of \$1.8-million in government funding over three years to the protection of this valuable and distinctive natural heritage. This funding will match commitments made by the private sector. It will be administered by the Ontario Heritage Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, in a special Carolinian Fund.



I want to commend the three non-government agencies that are contributing financially to this program. Those agencies are Wildlife Habitat Canada, The Nature Conservancy to Canada and World Wildlife Fund, Canada. Key members from those three agencies will be witness to the signing of the memorandum of understanding, which will be undertaken today. In particular, World Wildlife Fund is to be commended for its lead role in stimulating this very important co-operative initiative.

As members may know, the Carolinian zone in southern Ontario boasts vegetation and wildlife that is not found anywhere else in the province -- or in Canada, in some cases. This includes sassafras, tulip and red mulberry trees, opossum, blue racers and the Carolina wren, to mention just a very few.

These species are more often associated with southern regions as far down as the Gulf of Mexico, than they are with Ontario. Nevertheless, they can be found in this special area of the province.

They will not be with us for long, however, if we do not act now to protect them from the encroaching development.

The allocation of the \$3.6-million in funding is part of a special effort undertaken by the Natural Heritage League to conserve and protect the natural diversity of Ontario's rich Carolinian zone. The league is a coalition of 28 public and private sector organizations -- including MNR and MCC -- that work together on natural heritage initiatives.

In the case of Carolinian Canada, we have assisted in developing an overall conservation strategy for the region and are working to protect 36 critical natural areas. These areas include southern deciduous forests, wetlands, prairies and savannahs. Among them are 26 Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest designated by my ministry and eight of Ontario's most significant wetlands.

The land protection program set out in this memorandum of understanding involves both private stewardship and land acquisition.

Under the private stewardship component, we are encouraging landowners in Carolinian areas to leave undeveloped tracts to preserve Carolinian lifeforms.

Co-operating landowners are eligible to receive recognition through the Ontario Heritage Foundation Stewardship Awards program. They can also get management advice and apply for stewardship assistance from member agencies of the Natural Heritage League.

Actual land acquisition from willing landowners is reserved only for the most significant properties when no other options for protection are available.

Under this program, the province is working with public interest groups and the private sector to ensure the natural diversity offered to us in Carolinian Canada remains with us for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the Minister of Citizenship and Culture and I believe this is a very significant and positive program and we are pleased to be participating in it.



CA 20N

NR

- 5.74

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE

BY THE HONOURABLE VINCENT KERRIO
ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1988
1:30 P.M.

FOREST FIRE SITUATION

Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring members up-to-date on the forest fire situation in Ontario. Right now more than 80 fires are burning throughout the province. So far this year there have been 841 fires and they have consumed more than 65,000 hectares.

The conditions in the north continue to be serious. Much of our northern forests are tinder dry and temperatures are above normal.

Mr. Speaker, my ministry's fire crews are doing everything possible to protect life and property. They are receiving valuable assistance from support groups including 24 native crews trained in fire fighting. In areas where communities are threatened, the situation is being carefully monitored.

I should mention our efforts in the far north where we have 24 fires under observation. Our district managers and our fire behavior specialists are monitoring these fires and are in close communication with northern communities.

Where the situation warrants action, we are ready to move in to protect people and property in communities in the far north and in outpost camps.

For example, on Sunday four families were evacuated by helicopter from a remote community on Kashechewan Reserve, on the western shore of James Bay. Six private cabins were destroyed in the Bad River area near Sudbury. This fire is now under control and crews managed to protect a nearby lodge.

Our fire fighting resources are spread very thin because of the number of fires. We are extremely grateful to other jurisdictions for the significant support they have given us with equipment and personnel under the mutual aid resource sharing agreement.

We have been provided with 11 aircraft, including eight CL-215 water bombers from Newfoundland, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Alberta.

The extreme weather and burning conditions have led me to declare a restricted fire zone across virtually all of northern Ontario. It will be in effect until June 13 in most northern areas. A restricted fire zone currently in place over my ministry's Northwestern Region terminates on June 10, but it is under review.

I cannot emphasize strongly enough that we need the full co-operation of the public to help us through this difficult situation. Human carelessness has caused a significant number of fires, especially in the past few days. We need the co-operation of the public to prevent more fires.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

1780
H10
-544

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE

BY

THE HONOURABLE VINCENT G. KERRIO
ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1988
1:30 P.M.



THE DRAFT WETLANDS PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT

MR. SPEAKER, I'M PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT A DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT FOR WETLANDS PLANNING IN ONTARIO WILL SOON BE RELEASED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

THIS POLICY STATEMENT RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR REMAINING WETLANDS AND REFLECTS OUR COMMITMENT TO THEIR PROTECTION.

MOREOVER, IT ENSURES THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT PROTECTION IS SHARED AMONG ALL MUNICIPALITIES AND PLANNING AUTHORITIES ACROSS THE PROVINCE.

WITH THIS STATEMENT, PLANNING OFFICIALS WILL HAVE A CLEAR MANDATE TO INCORPORATE WETLAND VALUES IN THEIR LAND USE PLANNING DECISIONS.

MR. SPEAKER, MY COLLEAGUE THE MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND I ARE EAGER TO OBTAIN THE PUBLIC'S VIEWS ON THIS STATEMENT. WE WILL BE ISSUING COPIES OF THE DRAFT STATEMENT TOGETHER WITH DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES. AFTER A SIX-MONTH PUBLIC REVIEW, WE WILL MAKE ANY NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS BASED ON PUBLIC RESPONSE. THE MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND I WILL THEN BRING FORWARD THE FINAL VERSION OF THE POLICY STATEMENT FOR APPROVAL. IT WILL BE RELEASED UNDER SECTION THREE OF THE PLANNING ACT.

OUR MARSHES, SWAMPS, FENS AND BOGS ARE ESSENTIAL NATURAL RESOURCES. THEY PURIFY OUR WATER, HELP IN FLOOD CONTROL, AND PROVIDE CRUCIAL HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SPECIES. THEY HELP KEEP ONTARIO CLEAN AND HEALTHY.

UNFORTUNATELY, MANY OF OUR WETLANDS -- ESPECIALLY IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO -- HAVE BEEN LOST OVER THE YEARS TO URBAN ENCROACHMENT, LAND CLEARING, DRAINING AND FILLING.

I'M CONFIDENT THAT THIS PLANNING POLICY, WORKING IN CONCERT WITH THE MANY WETLANDS PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES ALREADY IN PLACE, WILL ENSURE THE FUTURE OF OUR WETLAND RESOURCES.

END



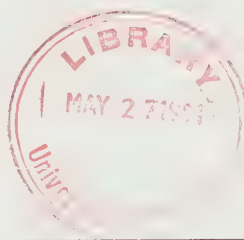
Ministry of Ministère des
Natural Richesses
Resources naturelles

4 STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE BY
THE HONOURABLE BUD WILDMAN
MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 1991

1:30 P.M.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



Sustainable Forestry

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce today, during National Forest Week, a program that will be the foundation for a new system of forest management in Ontario.

In the past, this province's forest programs have focused mainly on timber production, with some consideration for other social, environmental and economic benefits. The program I am announcing today involves a different approach, a sustainable forestry approach.

Sustainable forestry is management that ensures the long-term health of forest ecosystems. It means managing for all forest values, protecting old-growth ecosystems, reducing our dependence on chemical herbicides, involving the public in forest management decisions, and enhancing our forests in the south.

In 1991-92 the Ministry of Natural Resources will spend a total of \$10 million on a number of new initiatives that will accelerate our progress toward sustainable forestry. These initiatives largely involve increased research on forest ecosystems and silviculture, and greater public consultation on forest policy development.

Mr. Speaker, we face several challenges in developing sustainable forestry. We must protect and enhance our natural environment, while nurturing a competitive forest products industry that provides long-term employment.

We must ensure there is a healthy forest that contributes to global environmental benefits and which provides an array of social, cultural and economic opportunities now and in the future.

We need new information about our forests. We must improve our knowledge of forest ecosystems and alternative silviculture systems through an increased commitment to research and development.

We must share this knowledge, because Ontarians from all walks of life need to be well informed if they are to help establish forest policy. In addition, we must give the public a real voice in what goes on in the forest.

We must increase public participation in decision making, and community involvement and empowerment through new forms of partnerships.

Mr. Speaker, we have already begun to act. On April 18, I announced details of an independent audit of the province's boreal forest, whereby we can accurately determine the level of artificial and natural regeneration in harvested areas. Results of that audit will be available by mid-1992.

In addition to the audit, five other steps will pave the way for establishing sustainable forestry in Ontario. First, over the next two years, we will set our course by developing a broad strategy to guide forest management, one that sets long-term objectives and addresses key issues.

To create this forest policy framework, I will appoint an independent three-person working group by September to identify issues and consult widely to determine what Ontarians want from their forests.

The working group will also examine how the public and interest groups can become more involved in forest policy decision-making. It will also recommend a comprehensive forest policy framework to me by the fall of 1992.

Once this framework is in place, we will re-align existing policy to conform to it, and change our forest management practices accordingly.

To promote the redirection of our provincial program, we will introduce the concept of community forestry, a management system that gives communities a role in decisions about local forests. We will conduct workshops for the public, present potential models for consideration, and work with communities to test several new models for management.

Another area where we can proceed is silviculture. We will develop a silviculture plan that will include research on forest ecosystems and how they function, as well as biological diversity, the dynamics of forest stands and alternative silvicultural systems.

We will also develop programs to ensure that new knowledge is promptly applied in the field, and that our vegetation management practices are aimed at reducing our dependence on forest herbicides.

In line with that commitment, I would like to announce that, in this first year of the new program, the ministry will reduce by 20 per cent the aerial spraying of herbicides across the province.

But one-fifth less than last year means that about 80,000 hectares will be sprayed. The program I am announcing today recognizes the need to systematically reduce our dependence on chemical herbicides by using environmentally-sensitive alternatives, as they become available.

We can have a successful forest renewal program and apply more stringent standards to herbicide use.

We will also develop a policy for the protection of old-growth ecosystems that is scientifically sound and which addresses both social and economic concerns.

Guidelines will be in place for old-growth red and white pine by the spring of 1992, and a conservation strategy will be put into effect for old-growth ecosystems by 1993. In the meantime, significant old-growth red and white pine ecosystems will be protected from harvest.

In addition to these efforts, Mr. Speaker, we will embark on a private woodlands strategy to promote sustainable forestry on private lands. We will co-ordinate policy development and program delivery with other ministries and agencies, including the ministries of Agriculture and Food; Industry, Trade and Technology; Northern Development and Mines; as well as the province's Conservation Authorities.

The goal is to establish MNR's private woodlands management program as the key contact point for the co-ordination and consolidation of all public inquiries and applications about private woodlands stewardship programs.

Mr. Speaker, what I have outlined today is a firm commitment by this government and the Ministry of Natural Resources to achieve sustainable forestry in this province. Our forests are important to the people of Ontario. They provide major environmental, social and economic benefits to this province, and, if our efforts succeed, our forests will be a source of comfort and pride now and in the future.



STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE BY
THE HONOURABLE BUD WILDMAN
MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR NATIVE AFFAIRS

TUESDAY, MAY 28, 1991
1:30 P.M.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

INTERIM ENFORCEMENT POLICY

Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce that the interim enforcement policy we have been developing regarding aboriginal rights to hunt and fish is now in effect.

As I previously told the Legislature, the intent in developing the new interim enforcement policy is to clarify current government practice regarding aboriginal rights to hunt and fish for food for personal and community use.

The interim policy applies to status Indian people who are fishing or hunting for food in the area that is covered by their treaty. In addition, the policy applies to status Indians who are hunting and fishing in the area where they have traditionally harvested. Where such areas are different from existing treaty areas or are not set out in treaties, the boundaries of such traditional areas will be clarified through negotiation.

We needed to develop an interim policy in order to reflect the guarantee of aboriginal rights in Section 35 of the Constitution and to respond to recent decisions by the Supreme Court of Canada that help define those rights.

One of the most significant Supreme Court rulings, the Sparrow decision of May 1990, says that aboriginal rights to fish for food for personal and community use take first priority after conservation and resource management concerns have been satisfied. Through the interim policy, the logic of the Sparrow decision is being applied to hunting wildlife for personal and community use, as well as to fishing for such use.

The Sparrow decision also says that the relationship between governments and aboriginal people should not be adversarial. To promote this non-adversarial climate, the Government of Ontario is prepared to negotiate agreements with aboriginal people regarding their aboriginal rights to hunt and fish for food. The interim enforcement policy sets out the ground rules for negotiating arrangements with aboriginal people.

The new policy is consistent with the government's commitment to negotiate self-government arrangements with aboriginal people and its commitment to develop co-management agreements on natural resources.

The new policy is interim because it is meant to be in place until it is replaced by negotiated agreements with aboriginal people, after consultation with First Nations and interested third parties.

The interim policy will minimize the number of instances where native people might be charged under such acts as the Game and Fish Act, the Fisheries Act and the Migratory Birds Convention Act.

Under the interim enforcement policy, status Indian people harvesting wildlife and fish for personal consumption and for social and ceremonial purposes will not be subject to enforcement procedures except under certain circumstances. These circumstances include:

- hunting in an unsafe manner;
- where wildlife and fish are taken for commercial purposes, except where a specific, recognized right exists;
- where wildlife and fish are taken in a manner which puts conservation objectives at risk; and
- where hunting and fishing occur on privately owned or occupied land, unless there is permission from the landowner.

The following activities may be considered examples of activities that could put conservation objectives at risk:

- destruction or harmful alteration of fish or wildlife habitat;
- in certain circumstances, fishing in sanctuaries or waters that are closed at all times of the year, or hunting in waterfowl sanctuaries;
- the taking of rare, threatened or endangered species; and
- the taking of wildlife while they are nursing their young.

Again, I want to emphasize that these are examples of what may be considered exceptions to the general rule that allows aboriginal people to hunt and fish for food.

Mr. Speaker, the interim policy also provides for status Indian people to barter game and fish in exchange for other game and fish within or among their communities.

The interim policy also provides a framework for working with Métis and non-status Indian communities where harvesting wildlife and fish is integral to the lifestyle of the community. The provisions of the Game and Fish Act, the Fisheries Act and the Migratory Birds Convention Act will continue to apply to Métis and non-status Indian communities until agreements have been entered into with these communities.

In addition, agreements will have to be in place before aboriginal people may hunt and fish in provincial parks, unless they already have such rights.

This policy will apply to the unique circumstances which exist with respect to the harvest of game and fish by the Algonquins of Golden Lake in Algonquin Provincial Park.

The Algonquins of Golden Lake have filed a substantial claim to a large part of the Ottawa Valley, including Algonquin park. They have never been compensated for extinguishing their rights in the area they claim. Those unique circumstances must be recognized and they have been, through our commitment to negotiate the land claim beginning June 15.

This commitment includes an agreement to negotiate an interim arrangement with the Algonquins of Golden Lake regarding the aboriginal right to hunt and fish for food in the area they claim.

The interim agreement will include sub-agreements on deer and moose hunting and fishing that will specify seasons and areas for hunting and fishing, levels of harvest and measures to protect park values, ensure enforcement and conservation, and protect public safety.

We are currently negotiating with the Algonquins and consulting with other interested groups on proposals for the interim agreement. Through these negotiations and discussions, we will ensure that we have arrangements that conserve resources and protect public safety.

The interim enforcement policy indicates that in order for aboriginal people to hunt and fish in a provincial park, there must be a governing agreement. We have agreement with the Algonquins of Golden Lake on principles for hunting deer and moose within the context of this policy. We are working with the Algonquins of Golden Lake to finalize a fishing agreement and have been making some progress.

Although there remain some outstanding issues in relation to fishing negotiations, we believe that we will enter into an agreement soon. Until there is agreement on principles in relation to fishing, fishing activities by the Algonquins of Golden Lake will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Across the province, where there are allegations that a native person has violated the principles of conservation or public safety, those allegations will continue to be reviewed through the normal screening process in the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Under this process, the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources, in consultation with senior officials, reviews recommendations on charges against native persons and decides whether or not charges should be laid.

Before a decision is made to proceed with charges, MNR will consult the Chief, or designate, of the affected First Nation to discuss concerns about harvesting of fish and wildlife. The appropriate aboriginal treaty and political organization will also be notified. The Attorney General may intervene in this screening process.

Where there are allegations that status Indian people are improperly fishing or hunting for commercial purposes, the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources must give his written approval before planned enforcement procedures are undertaken, such as inspecting commercial establishments, search warrants, and special investigations.

When reviewing recommendations to lay charges regarding commercial fishing, the Deputy Minister will take into consideration whether or not there exists a right to harvest wildlife and fish for commercial purposes.

In developing the interim policy, we consulted with aboriginal people and with other interested groups in the province. While the native leadership and the other groups do not necessarily accept the principles underlying the new policy, there has been a constructive dialogue and a shared recognition that new rules are necessary. Many of the revisions suggested during consultation are now part of the interim policy. We are open to further suggestions on revisions in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the assistance of the Indian Commission of Ontario and the commissioner, Mr. Harry Laforme, in developing the interim policy.

I am also announcing today that new consultation committees on these matters are being set up immediately.

One will be a conservation committee with representatives from the province, including the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources, and from aboriginal and treaty organizations. They will meet quarterly to discuss decisions by the MNR Deputy to proceed with charges against native persons.

Regional conservation committees in MNR's administrative regions will also be set up. Representatives will be drawn from MNR and from area aboriginal treaty and political organizations. These committees will discuss activities that might put conservation objectives at risk; the necessity of existing and future fish sanctuaries; the rare, threatened and endangered species of the region; and areas in the region that require special protection.

Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize again that a new approach is needed to deal with the issues surrounding enforcement and the aboriginal right to hunt and fish for food for personal and community use.

This new interim enforcement policy provides a mechanism that will help us meet our commitment to find ways to allow native people to exercise their aboriginal rights.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE BY
THE HONOURABLE BUD WILDMAN
MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR NATIVE AFFAIRS

MONDAY JUNE 3, 1991
1:30 P.M.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



Lac La Croix First Nation

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform members of a number of initiatives the government is pursuing to address historic grievances and to improve the economic and social conditions for the Lac La Croix First Nation in northwestern Ontario.

The 250 members of the Lac La Croix First Nation live on a reserve on the southwestern edge of Quetico Provincial Park, on the international boundary between Ontario and Minnesota.

There is no road access to the community, and employment is seasonal and restricted because of the isolation of the reserve. One of the few employment opportunities that currently exists is to guide visitors in Quetico Park.

For nearly 90 years, this First Nation has demanded that the province honor its rights and provide it with more meaningful economic opportunities. Until now, successive provincial governments, and also the federal government, have not responded positively.

Before I announce our initiatives, I would like to outline some of the history of this area. The Lac La Croix First Nation signed Treaty 3 in 1873.

Briefly, Treaty 3 guaranteed that the First Nation can exercise its pursuits of hunting and gathering in its traditional area, subject to some conditions -- such as non-native settlements, lumbering, mining and other land uses.

It was not contemplated in 1873, when this treaty was signed, that the idea of other uses would include establishing a provincial park, like Quetico.

It is also important to note that when Quetico Provincial Park was created in 1913 the Lac La Croix First Nation was not consulted by the Ontario government.

This lack of consultation has led to a number of injustices since 1913. Those injustices include: removal of families from their traditional lands; the prevention of First Nation members from visiting sacred ceremonial grounds; the disturbance of traplines by provincial officials; and the detention and incarceration of community members for trapping, hunting and fishing.

We cannot undo those injustices. We can, however, recognize that the traditional activities of this First Nation have been interfered with.

We understand that the First Nation has been hurt by the fact that the federal government, as its trustee, has not acted in a manner fitting of the Crown. In addition, successive Ontario governments have failed to recognize the aboriginal and treaty rights of the Lac La Croix First Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the elders and chief of the Lac La Croix First Nation are in the Speaker's gallery today, and I want to say very directly and personally to them, as well as to members of the House, that our government is prepared to make a public apology to the Lac La Croix First Nation for the lack of respect that has been shown for its people and for its rights.

We are committed to honoring the rights of the First Nation. We are also prepared to move ahead and begin to create the conditions that will help solve the economic and social problems of the community.

Lac La Croix has made a proposal to the province to add six new lakes within Quetico Park where its members would be allowed to use motorboats as part of its guiding activities. At present, the community has motorboat access to six lakes on the west side of the park and an aircraft landing site at Beaver House Lake.

The First Nation has also requested additional landing sites and docks within the park, again for guiding purposes.

Mr. Speaker, on an interim basis, the province has accepted part of this proposal in order to provide some immediate, and much needed, economic stimulus for this community.

Through an exemption order under the Environmental Assessment Act, the First Nation will be allowed access to three additional lakes -- Cirrus, Jean and Conk lakes -- which are adjacent to an area where they already have motorboat access and a landing site. The motors for these boats will be small, with a maximum of 10 horsepower.

I recognize that there is considerable, and legitimate, public interest in any changes to Quetico Park, particularly changes that deal with motorized access.

Therefore, I am committed to a program of full public consultation on all of the elements of the proposal for more access to the park by the Lac La Croix community.

I am very pleased to inform members that the Lac La Croix First Nation is willing to participate in public consultations.

Public consultation will be conducted in accordance with the Ontario Provincial Park Management Planning Guidelines. In addition, before any amendments are made to the Quetico Park Management Plan concerning the Lac La Croix proposal, I will ask the Provincial Parks Council to conduct a review of proposed amendments.

We trust that the public consultation and the Parks Council review can be completed within a year to conform to the exemption order that provides the community immediate access to the three additional lakes.

We are also prepared to move immediately to assist with economic development at Lac La Croix. The province will provide \$72,000 so the community may buy its own canoes and motors and increase the benefits from its guiding activities. At the moment, the community rents canoes and motors. The Ministry of Natural Resources will also hire four members of the community to act as a fire protection crew for Quetico Park.

In order to address other outstanding grievances of the community, I am pleased to announce that Ontario has appointed a special representative who will discuss a number of issues with the First Nation.

Our special representative will be Lloyd Girman, a former deputy minister of Northern Development and Native Affairs with the Manitoba government.

A key issue to be resolved is the land claim of the First Nation. The claim involves an area referred to as Sturgeon Lake Indian Reserve 24 C, which is adjacent to McKenzie Lake in Quetico Park. The area was surveyed for a reserve in 1877. The Sturgeon Lake Band settled on the reserve until the reserve was cancelled in 1915 by Ontario. Thereafter, the families were removed.

We will invite the federal government to participate in the land claim discussions. However, the province is prepared to move quickly and negotiate matters that are within provincial jurisdiction.

Mr. Girman will also discuss with the First Nation the exercise of its aboriginal and treaty rights to hunt, fish and trap in its traditional area, which includes Quetico Park.

The discussions between Ontario's special representative and the First Nation will also focus on improving housing and social services and on providing road access to the community. MNR is prepared to commit \$500,000 to the construction of a road or trail to the community. This road will be outside the boundaries of Quetico Park.

Mr. Speaker, Ontario is determined to move forward quickly, to acknowledge past wrongs, and to work constructively and respectfully with the Lac La Croix First Nation. The provincial government is also committed to full and fair public consultation with all, with an interest in improving the park values that make Quetico Park a very special place.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE
BY THE HONOURABLE BUD WILDMAN
MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1991
1:30 P.M.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



Forest Industry Action Group

Mr. Speaker, as part of the government's commitment to economic renewal, a number of ministries, led by my ministry, agreed to form a Forest Industry Action Group to address economic challenges in Ontario's forest products industry.

The action group's approach will be a co-operative one. It will bring together business, labor and government in an effort to find effective and lasting solutions to the industry's current problems.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of John Valley as Assistant Deputy Minister, Forest Industry Action Group.

Mr. Valley, a native of Thunder Bay, has a broad range of experience in the forest products industry and associated natural resource, mining and energy matters. Since 1982, he has been a vice-president with Boise Cascade Canada Ltd. and is currently the company's vice-president, administration and corporate affairs. Prior to joining Boise Cascade, he spent six years in management positions with Algoma Steel in Sault Ste. Marie.

Mr. Valley will join us in mid-December. His first task will be to consult widely with senior business and labor leaders and come back to me with an action plan as soon as possible.

The forestry industrial sector is a key element in the social and economic fabric of this province. Ontario produces more than \$12 billion worth of forest products annually, and accounts for about 20 per cent of Canada's exports of wood and wood products.

Our forest products industry generates larger net export earnings than any other part of our economy. It is responsible for more than 160,000 jobs, and is the anchor for about 40 communities across the central, eastern and northern parts of the province.

But the forest products industry is a cyclical one, and for some time now it has been experiencing a serious downturn. Markets are weak, demand for newsprint is down substantially, and pulp prices have fallen by one-third in the past year. Lumber prices also are low because of fewer North American housing starts and a soft market overseas.

There are many reasons for this downturn. They include the impact of the recession and the high Canadian dollar, trade disputes with the United States over softwood lumber, and changing demand in the marketplace.

The industry needs to develop a long-term industrial strategy to address these changing variables. It needs to find ways to create stability, so that forest products companies -- and communities which depend on the forest products industries -- are less vulnerable to the cycles and downturns that have typified the industry in the past.

This government is committed to a strong, healthy, prosperous Ontario forest products industry. We are also committed to sustainable forestry. That involves a redirection of our forest program so that Ontario's forests are managed in a way that ensures the long-term health of forest ecosystems and which recognizes a diverse range of forest values.

But sustainable forestry also means a sustainable forest products industry, and sustainable forest communities. Sustainable forestry can contribute to Ontario's economic renewal by ensuring the sustainability of our forest resources, making the forest products industry more competitive in future.

Mr. Speaker, as a government we are not alone in our belief that effective and long-lasting solutions to the challenges created by the recession must come through a co-operative approach, with business, labor and government working together to achieve common goals.

Over the past few years, a number of independent reports examining the forest industry have recommended a co-operative approach by business, labor and government. More recently, I hosted a meeting in late October which brought together forest industry representatives, labor leaders and a number of my Cabinet colleagues.

The consensus from these discussions was that the pressures of global competition are very serious, and that a tripartite approach was essential for meeting the challenges facing the forest products industry. It was also clear that we must act now, rather than later. Leadership, at this point, is essential.

The Forest Industry Action Group will have my full support, and the full support of this government, as it seeks ways to help Ontario's forest industry meet the challenge of the structural and cyclical pressures that it must deal with.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



November 26, 1991

Natural Resource Minister Appoints Forest Industry Action Group

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman today announced an action group to address economic challenges in Ontario's forest products industry.

"As part of the government's commitment to economic renewal, a number of ministries, led by my ministry, have agreed to form the Forest Industry Action Group to find effective and lasting solutions to the industry's current problems," Mr. Wildman said.

"Solutions must come through a co-operative approach, with business, labor and government working together to achieve common goals," Mr. Wildman said. "It is also clear that we must act now, rather than later. Leadership, at this point, is essential."

Mr. Wildman also announced the appointment of John Valley as head of the Forest Industry Action Group.

Mr. Valley will join the Ministry of Natural Resources as Assistant Deputy Minister in mid-December. His first task will be to consult widely with senior business and labour leaders, and report to Mr. Wildman with an action plan as soon as possible.

Ontario's forestry industrial sector produces more than \$12 billion worth of forest products annually. It accounts for about 20 per cent of Canada's exports of wood and wood products, and generates larger net export earnings than any other part of Ontario's economy. The industry is responsible for more than 160,000 jobs, and is the anchor for about 40 communities across the central, eastern and northern parts of the province.

For some time now, however, the Ontario industry has been experiencing a serious downturn as a result of weak markets, lower demand for newsprint, falling prices for pulp and lumber, and the economic recession. The action group will work to find effective and lasting solutions to the challenges facing the industry, including the development of a long-term forest industrial strategy.

forest industry action group - 2

Mr. Valley, a native of Thunder Bay, has a broad range of experience in the forest products industry and associated natural resource, mining and energy matters. Since 1982, he has been a vice-president with Boise Cascade Canada Ltd. and is currently the company's vice-president, administration and corporate affairs. Prior to joining Boise Cascade, he spent six years in management positions with Algoma Steel in Sault Ste. Marie.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Norm Stephenson
Forest Resources Branch
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 945-6674

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756

3 1761 11547717 6

